



# Urusei Yatsura



Story & Art by

**RUMIKO TAKAHASHI** 

# Urușei Yatsura

Part 25



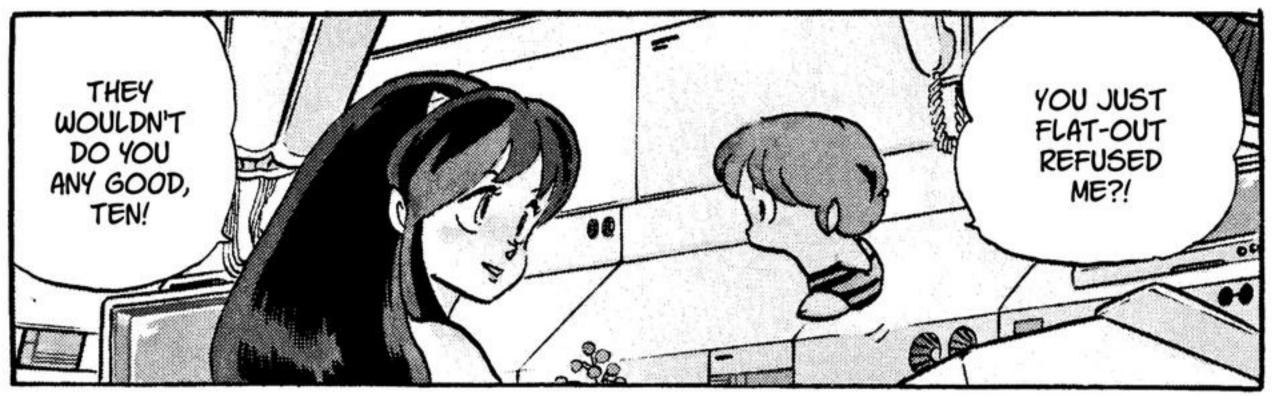
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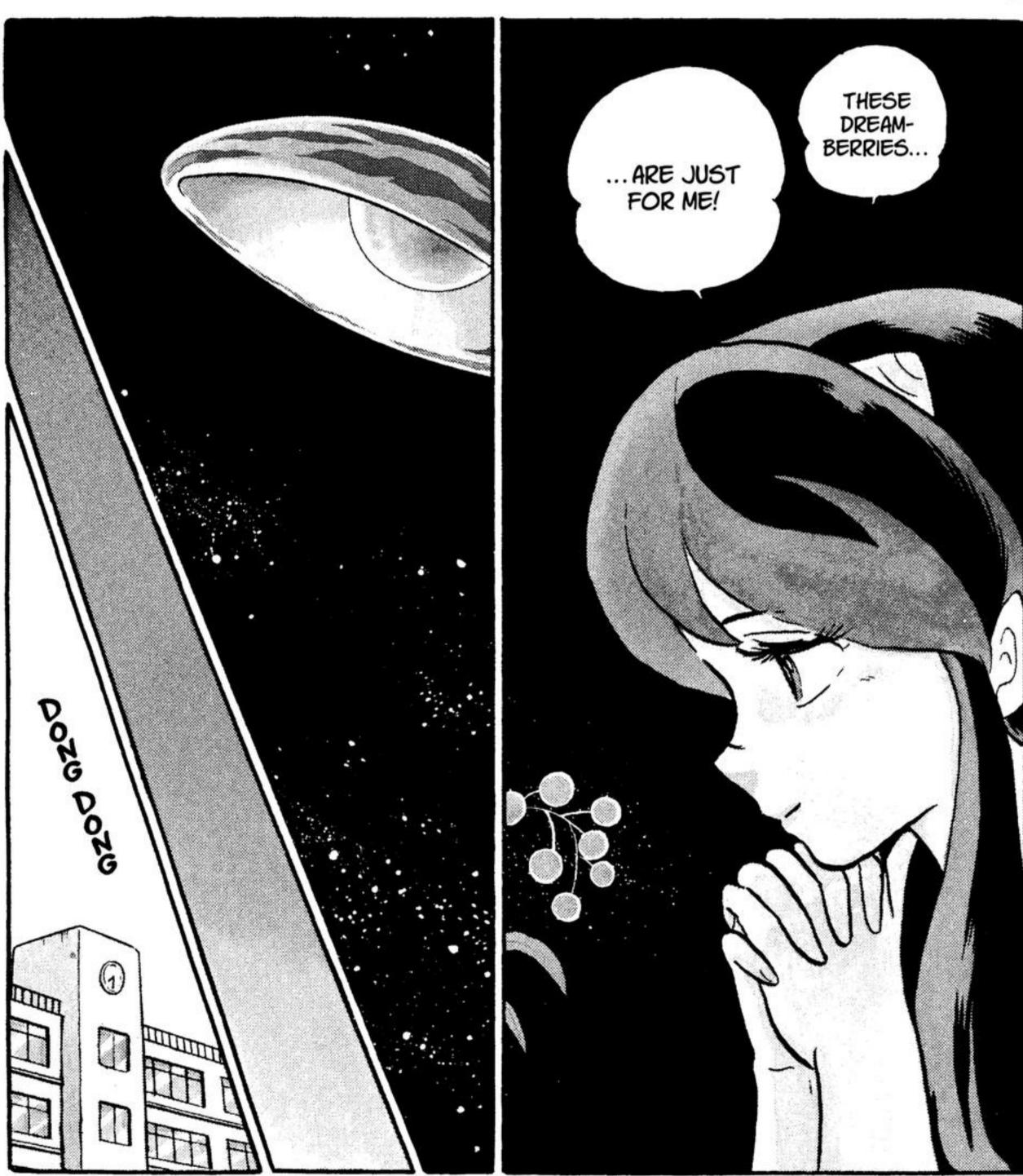
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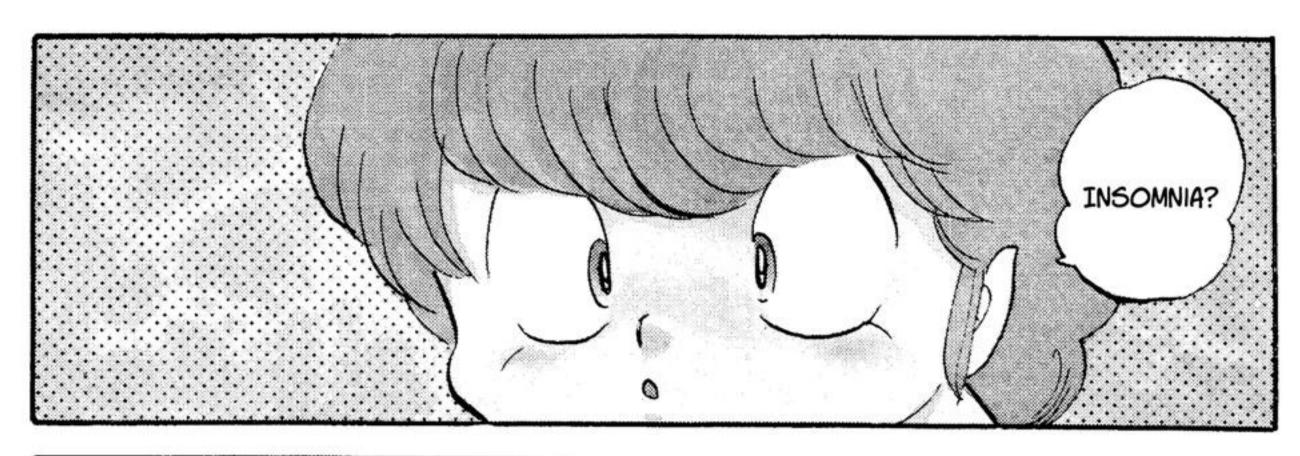
## CHAPTER 1: MAY WE MEET IN OUR DREAMS— REALITY









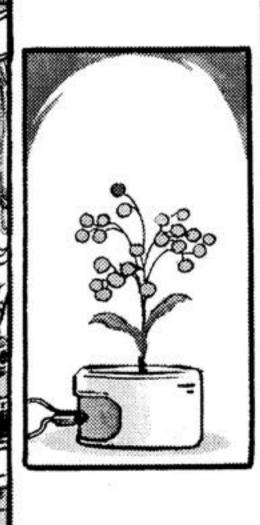


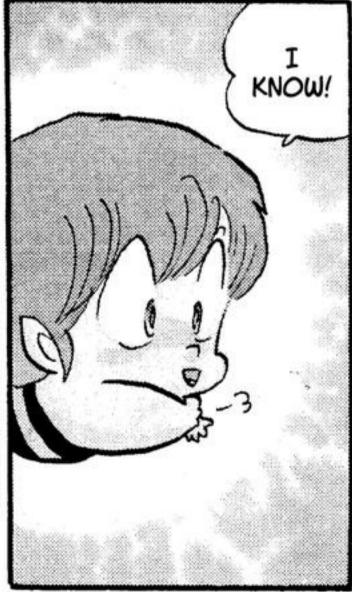




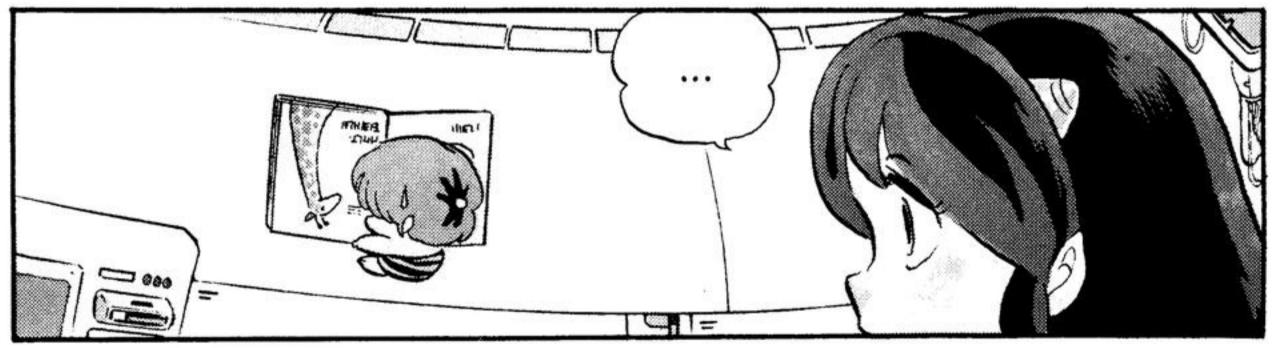














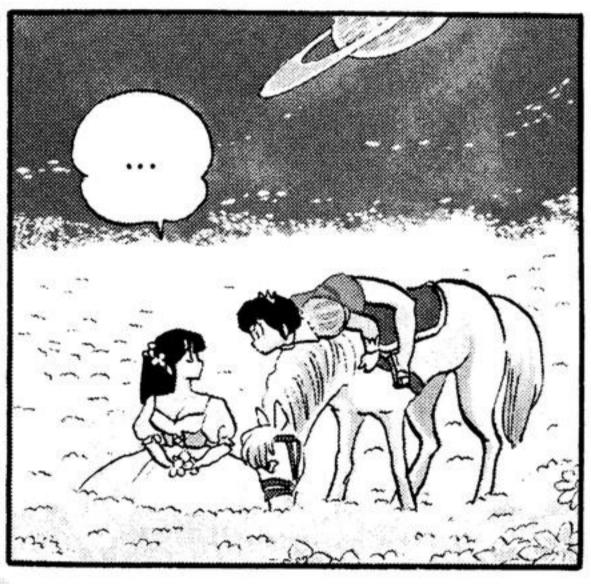


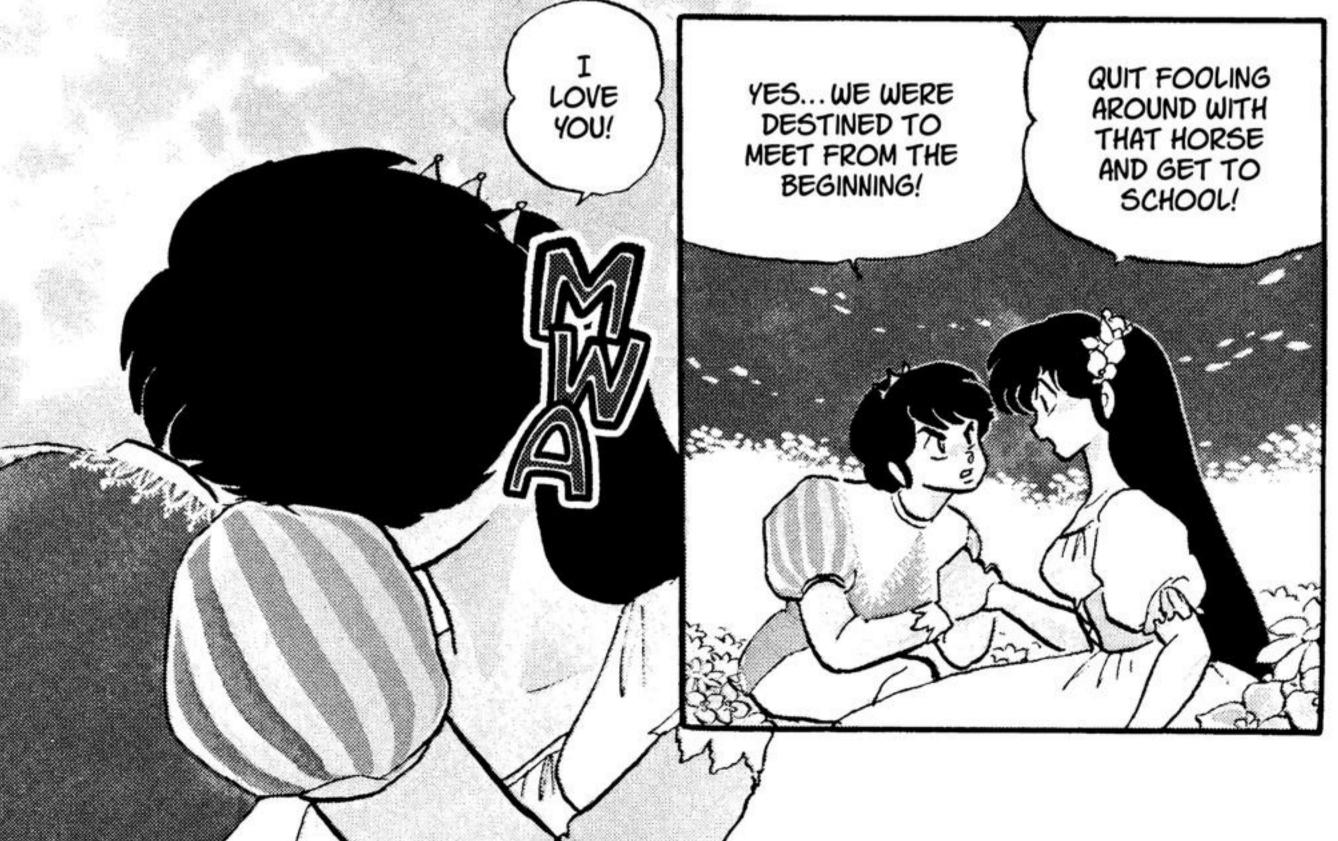






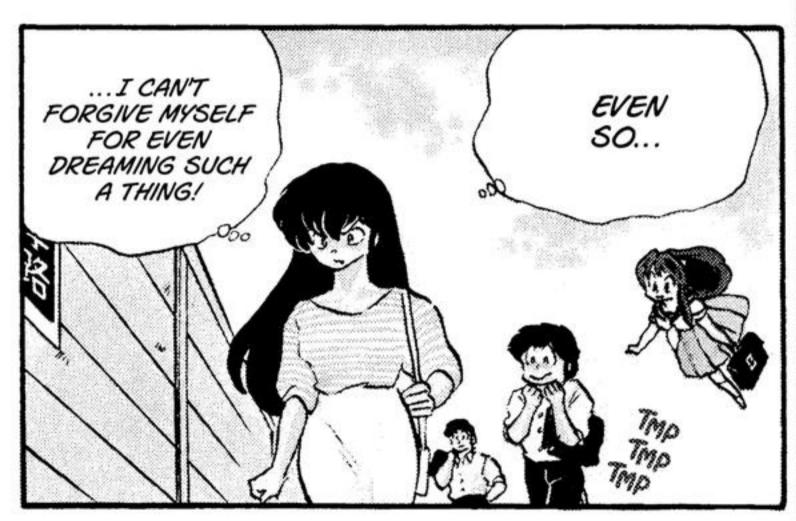




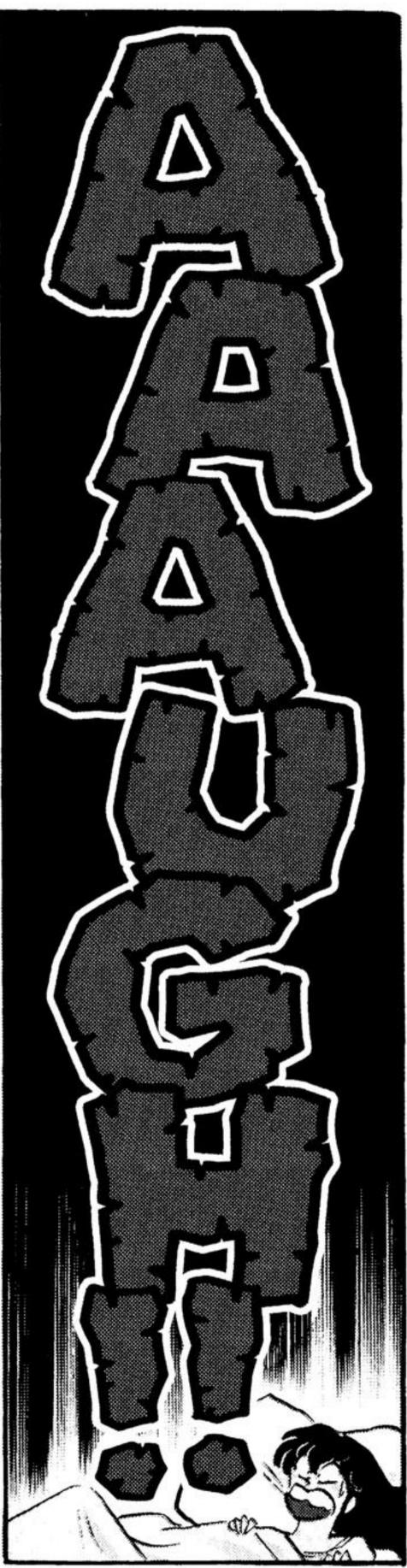












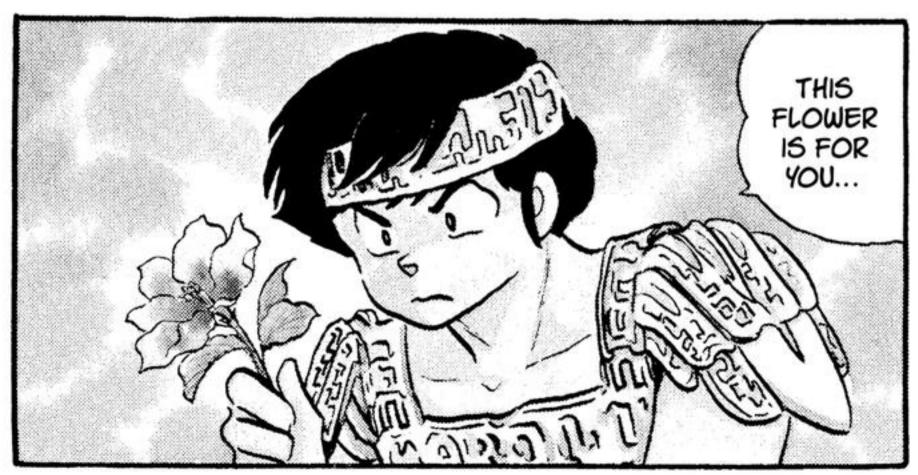


























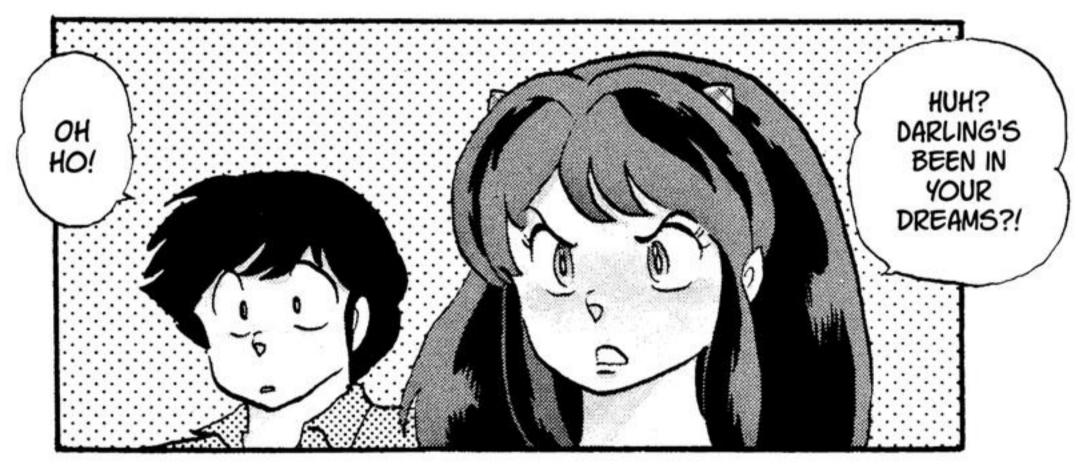




















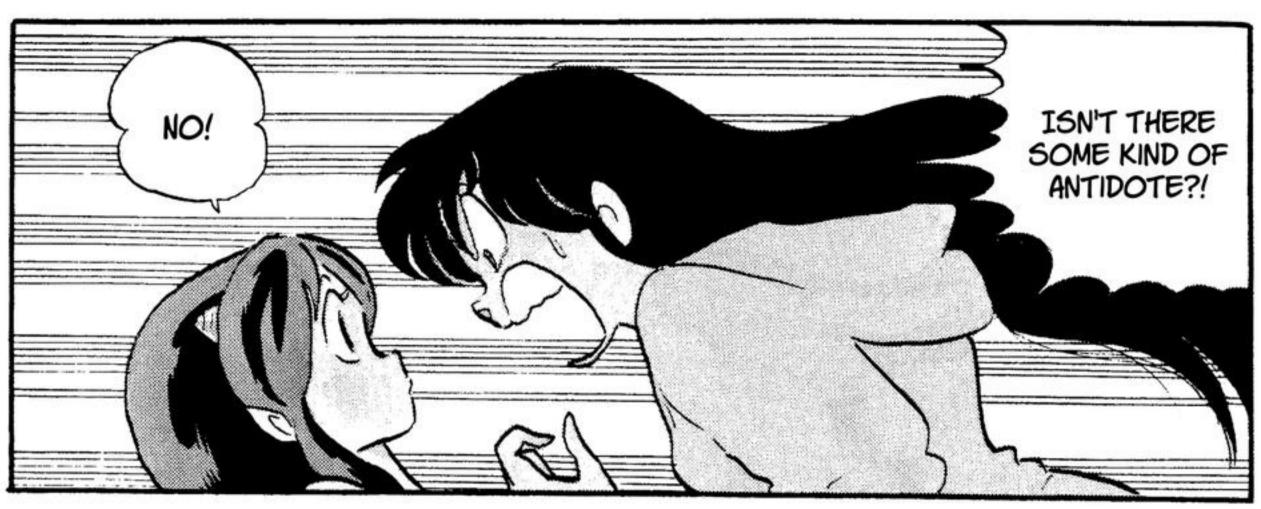














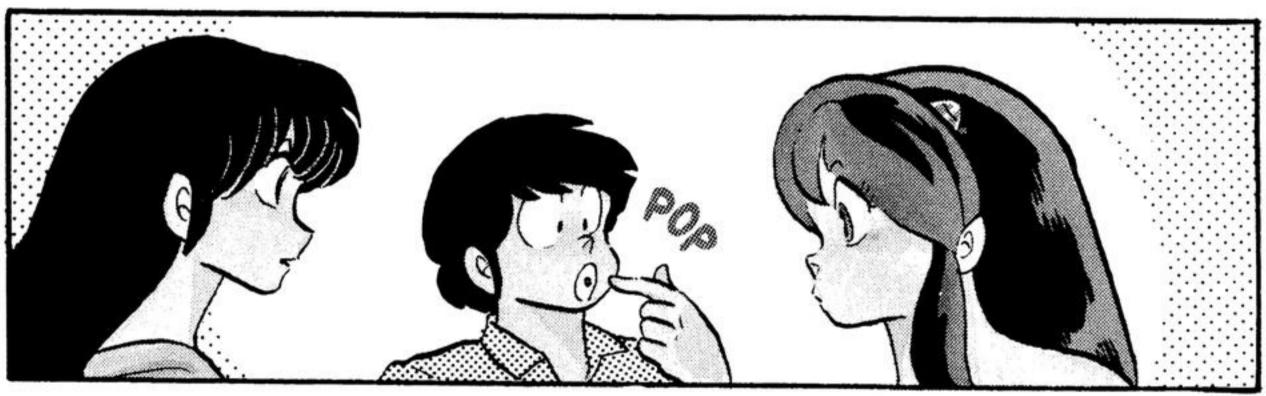
EVEN IN A DREAM, HOW COULD I POSSIBLY TOLERATE...



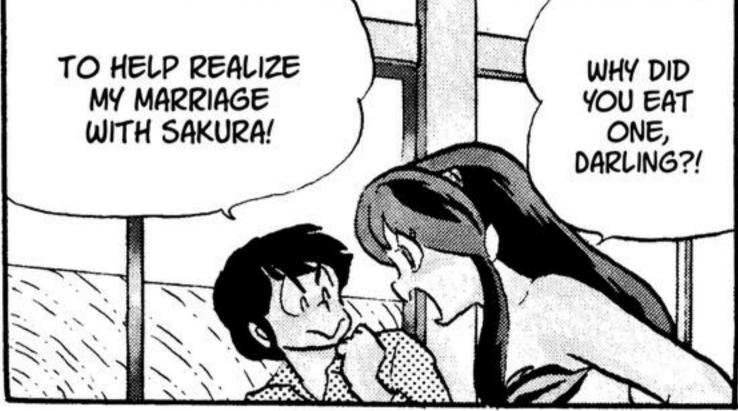


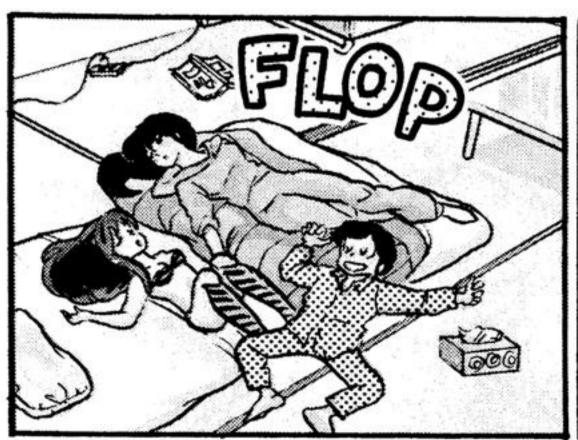


















### CHAPTER 2: MAY WE MEET IN OUR DREAMS— THE SHOWDOWN

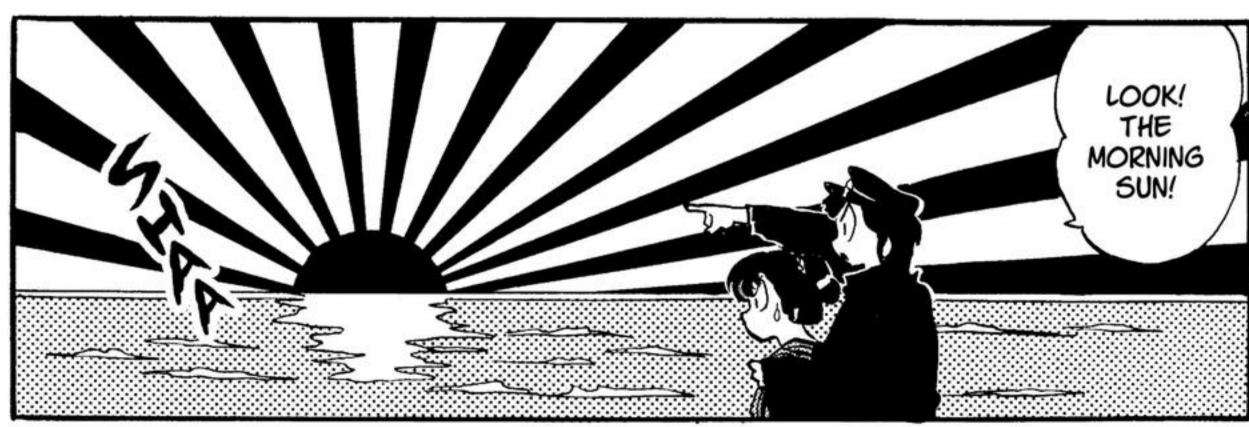




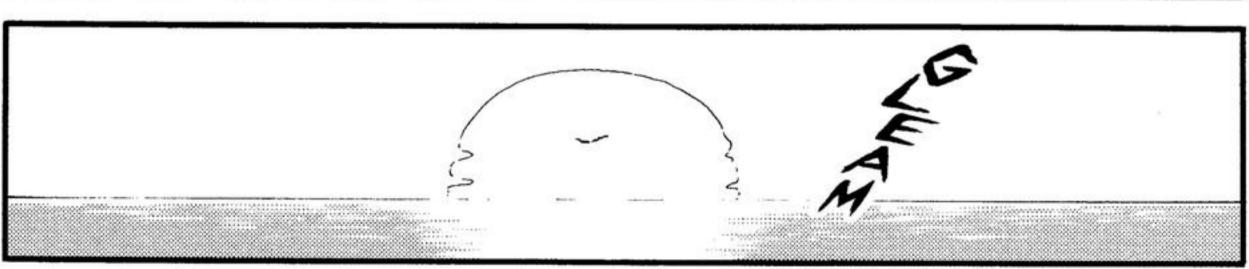


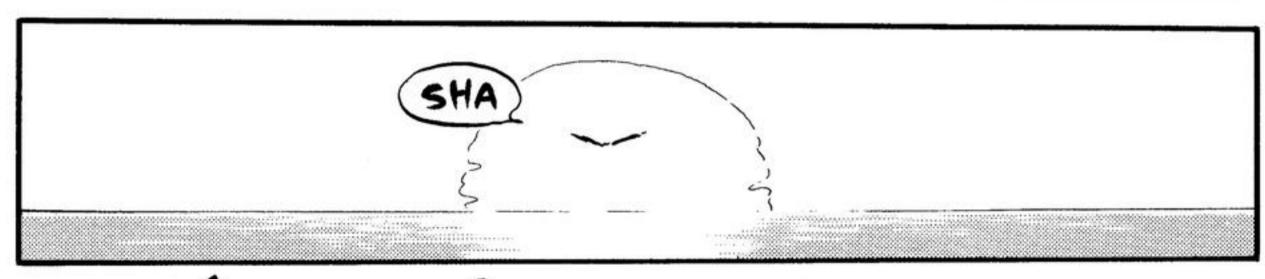










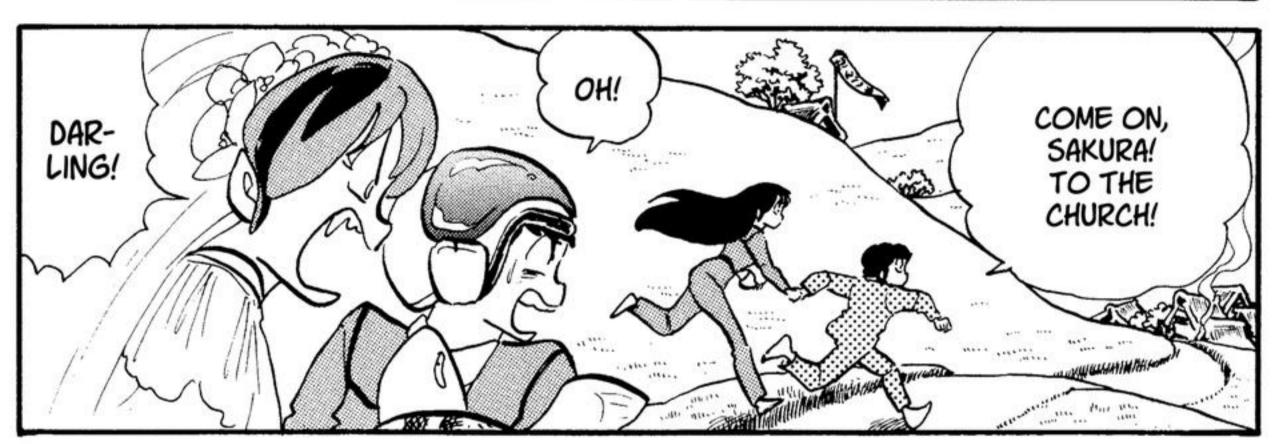








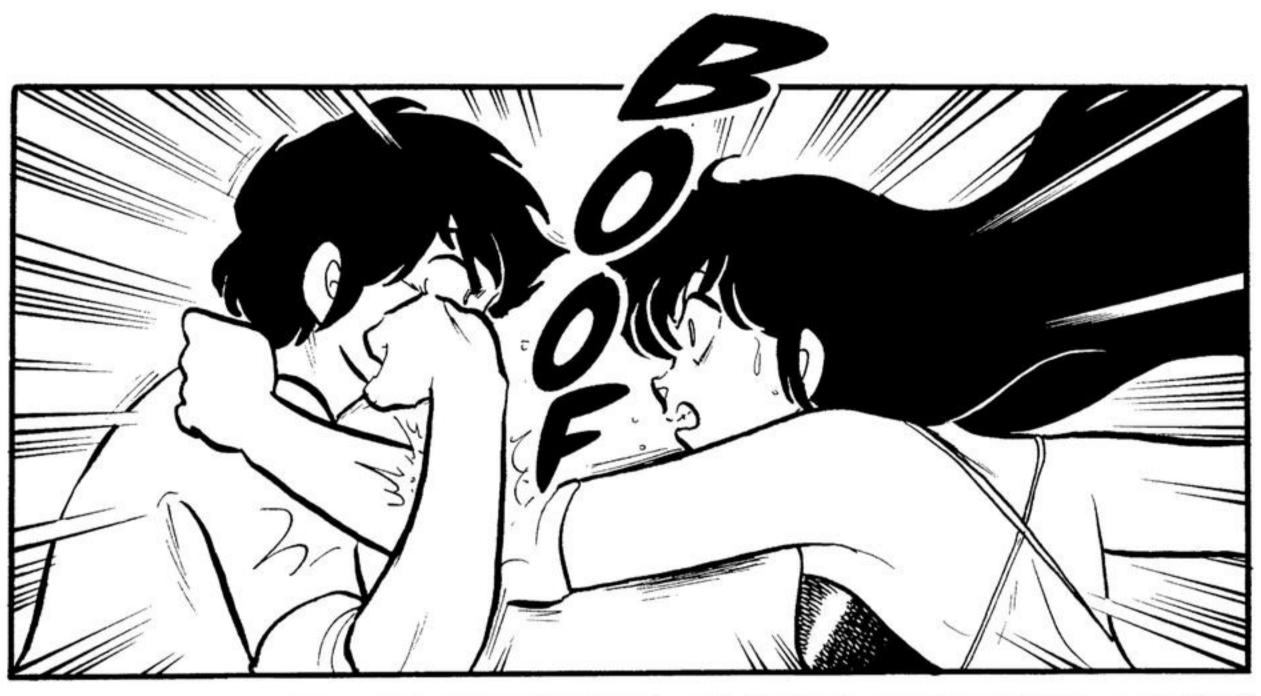






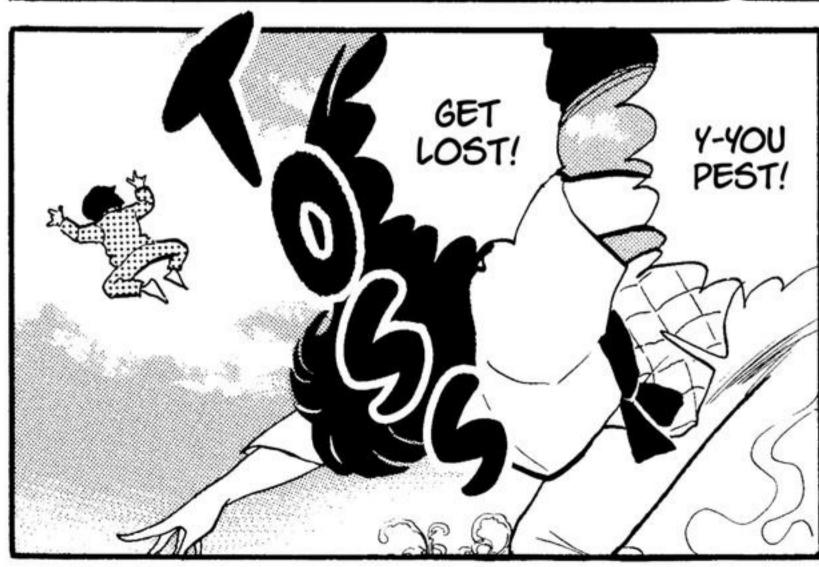










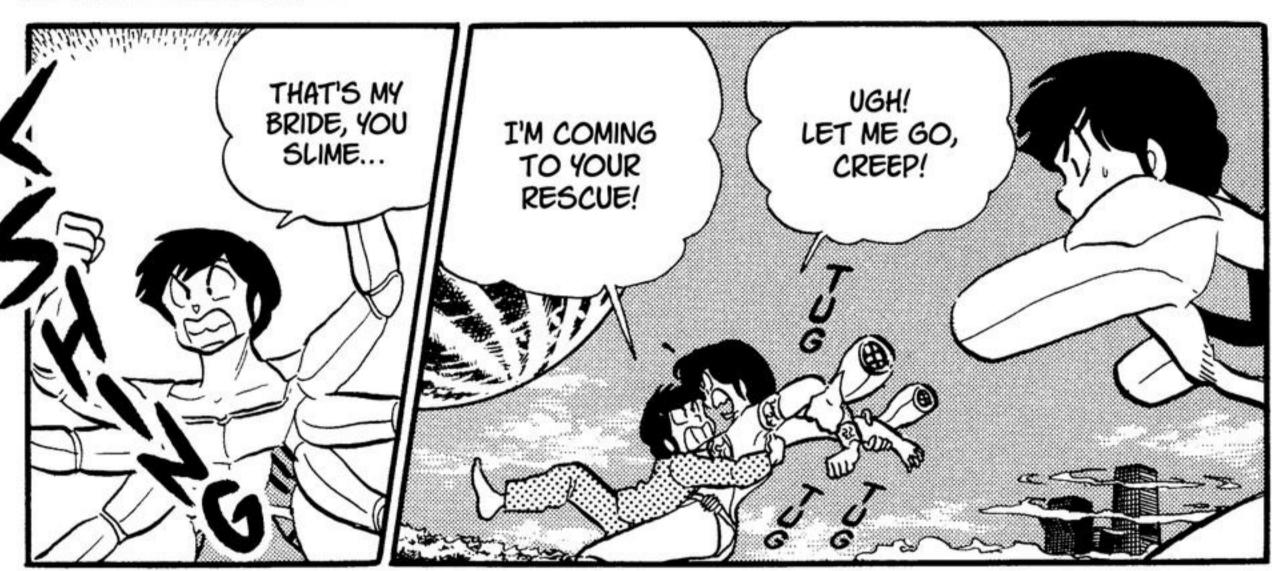
















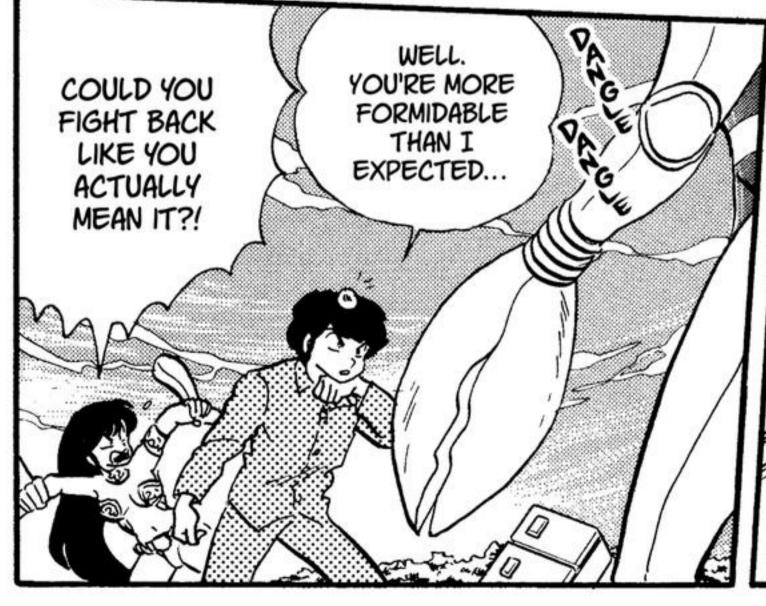




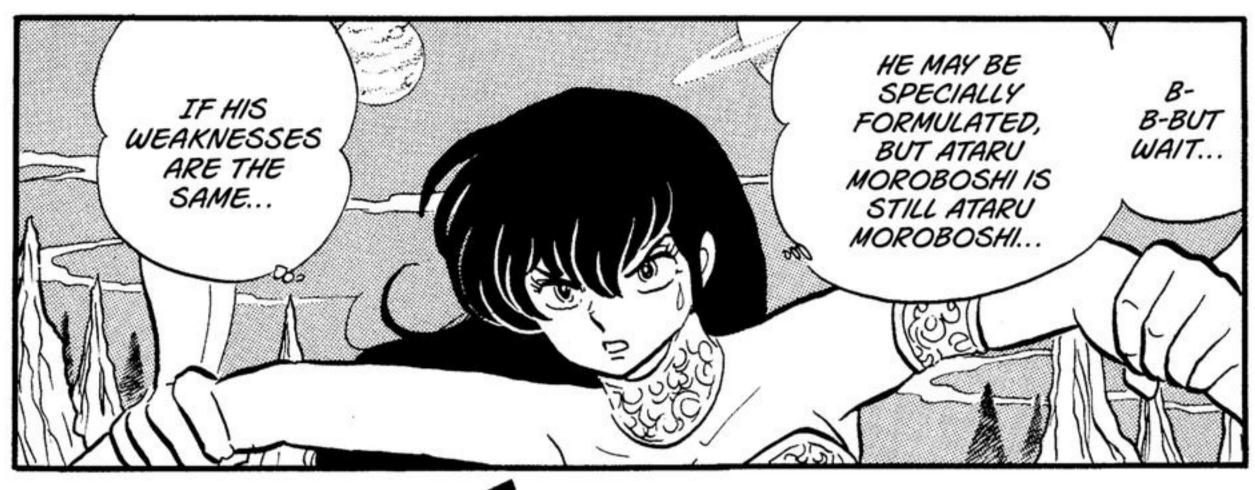




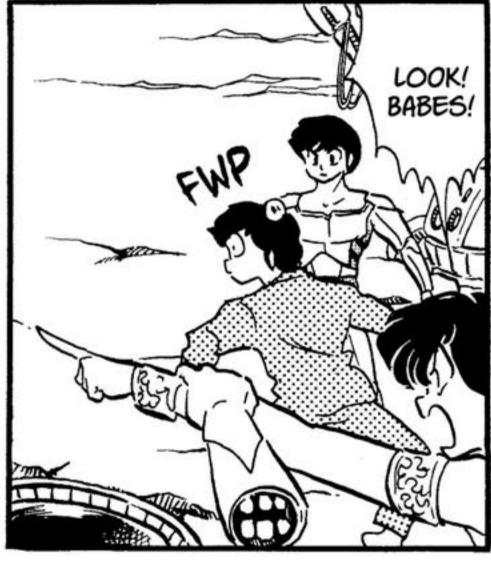
















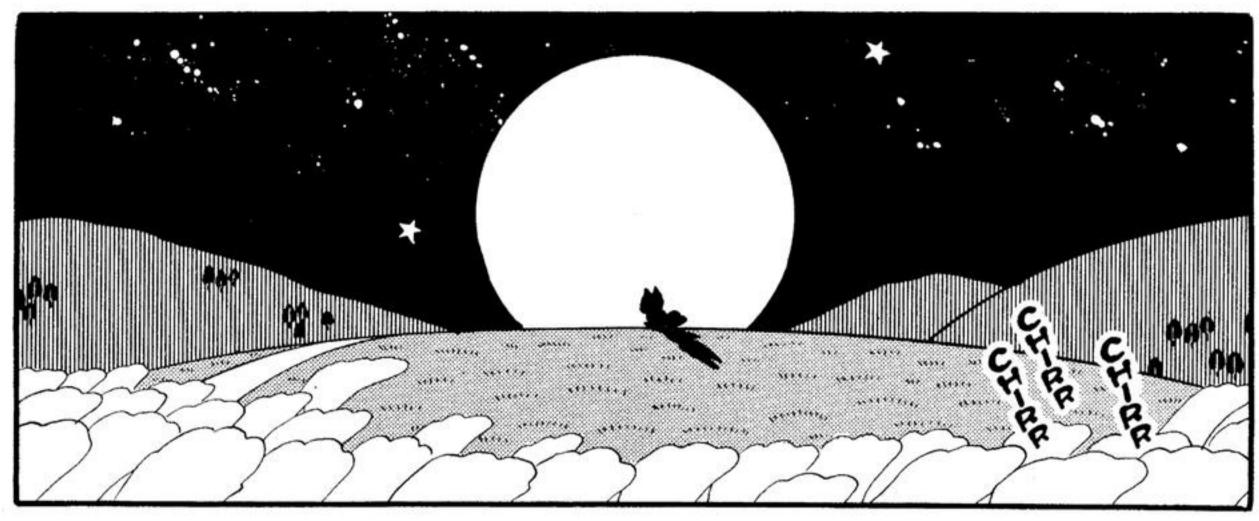






## CHAPTER B8 THE SHAPE OF THINKEY

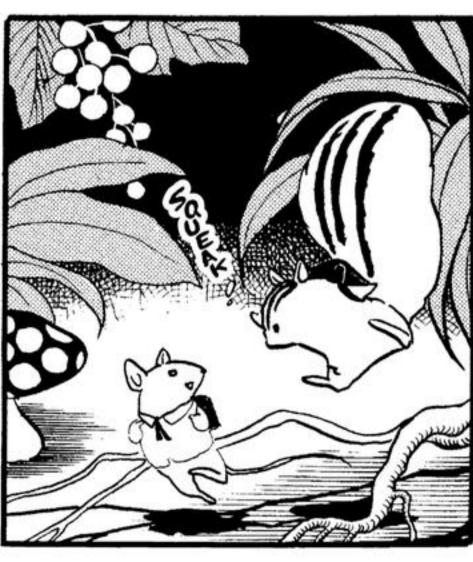










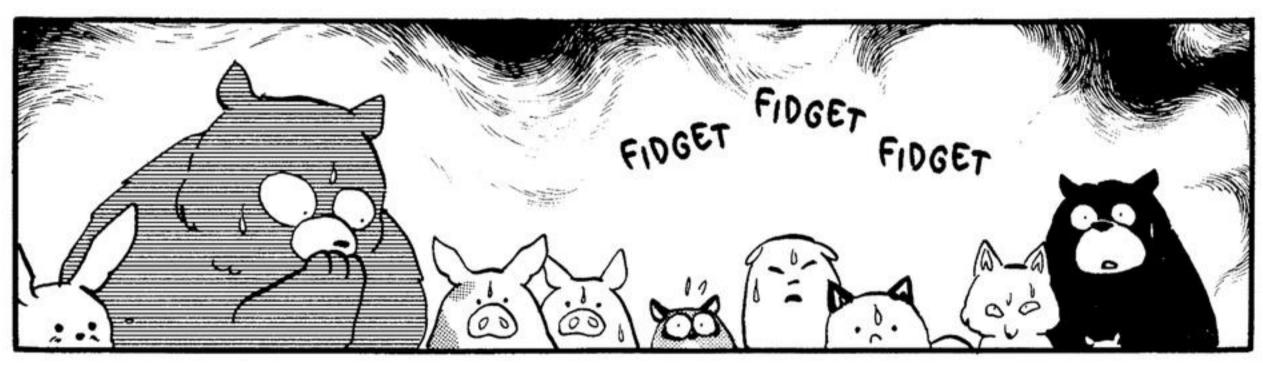






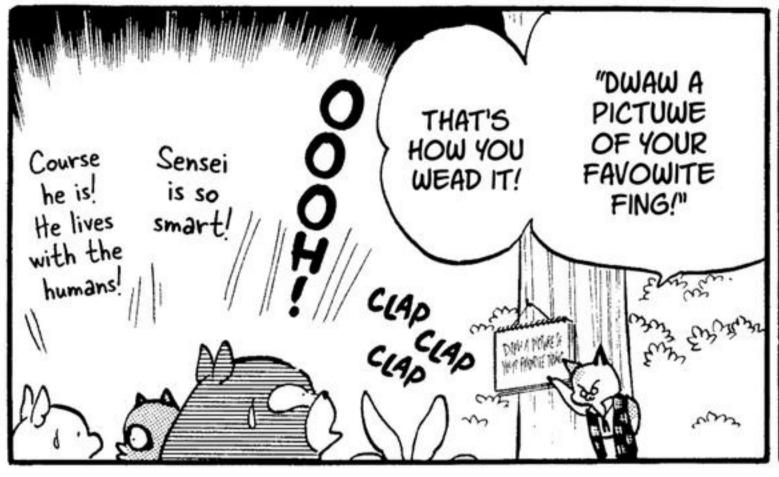




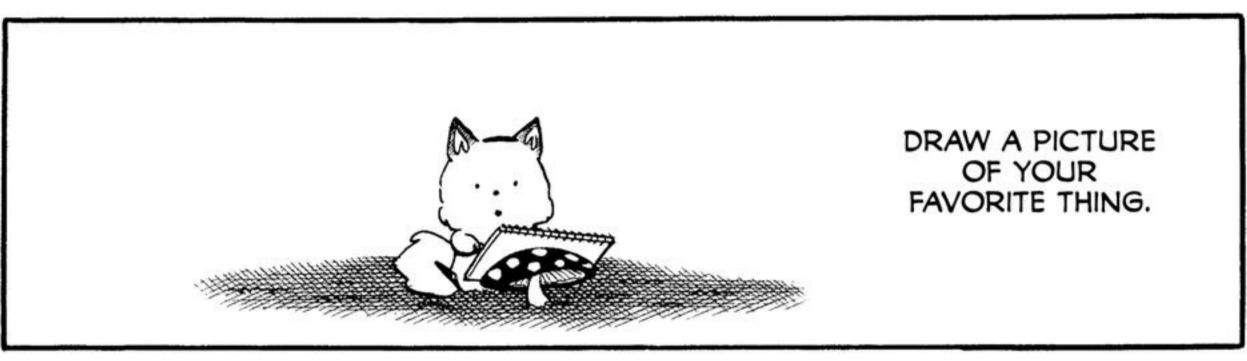


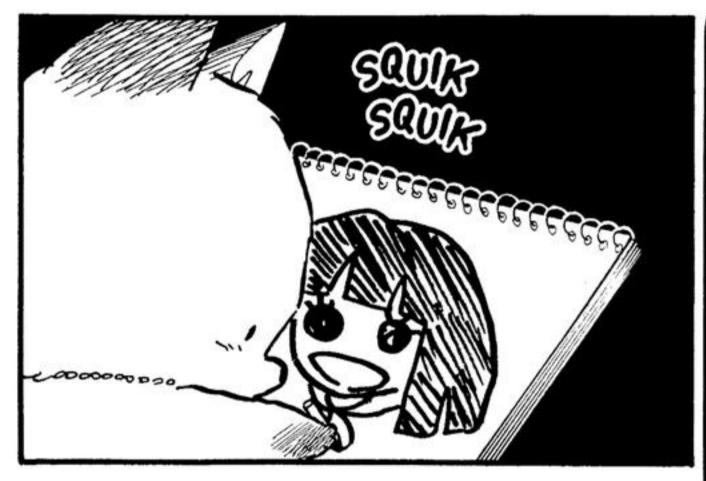




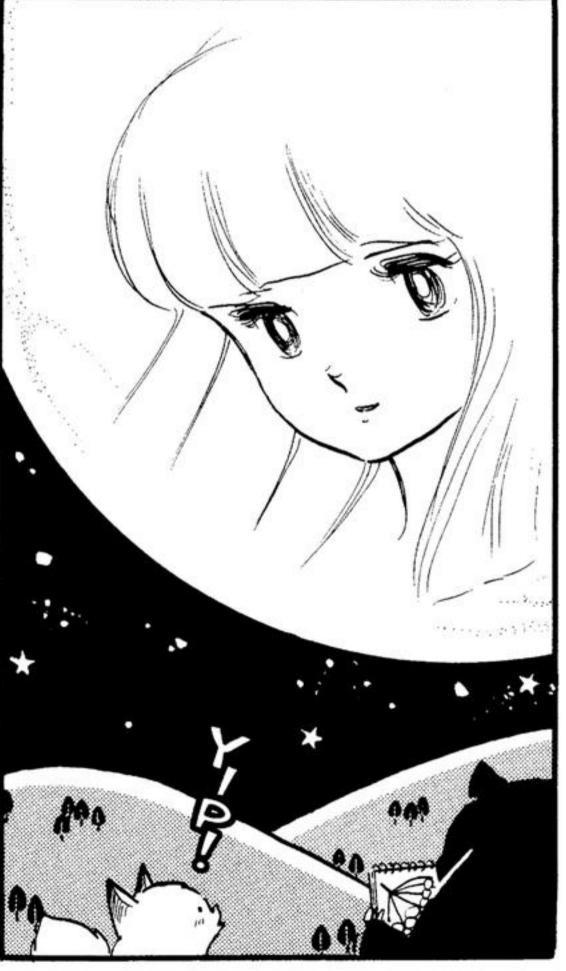


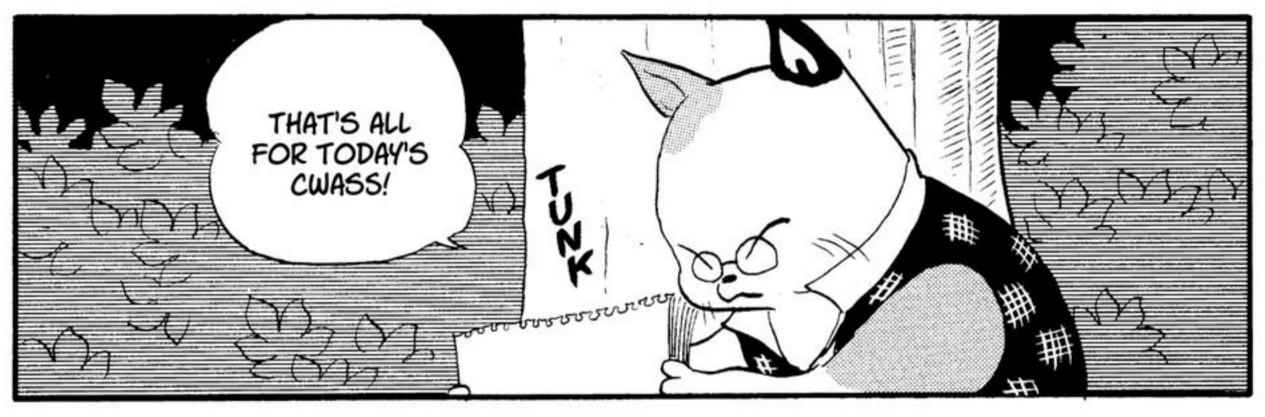


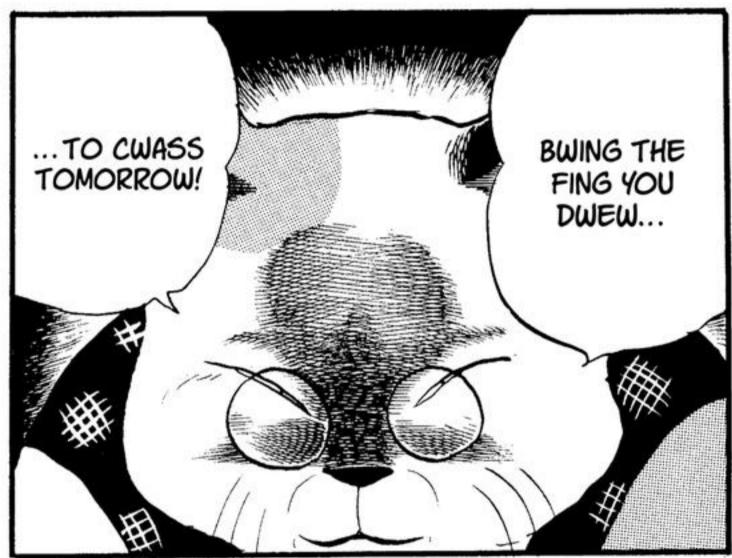




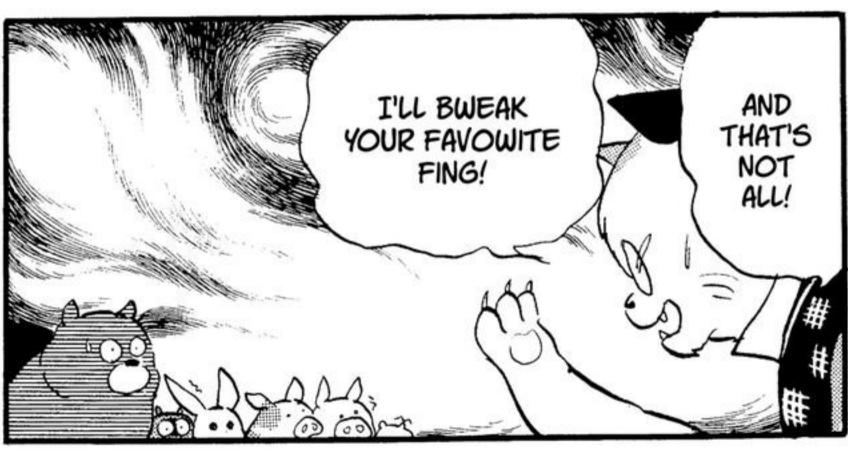














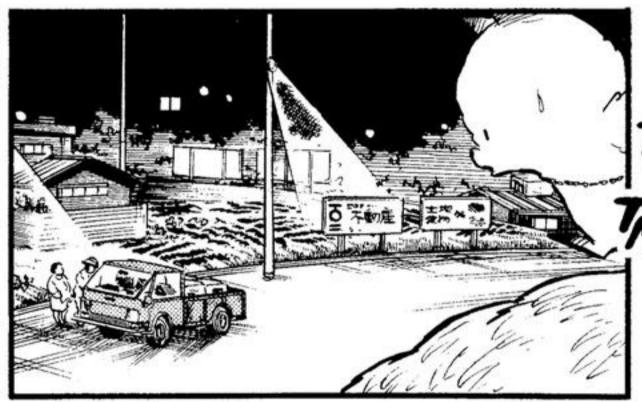


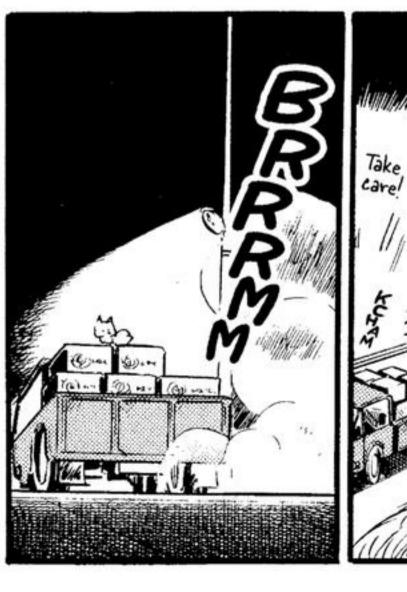














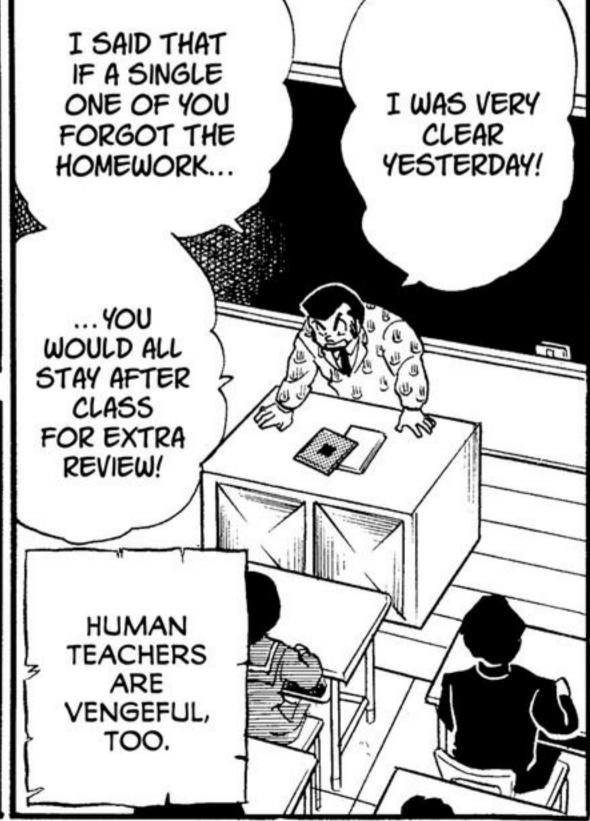














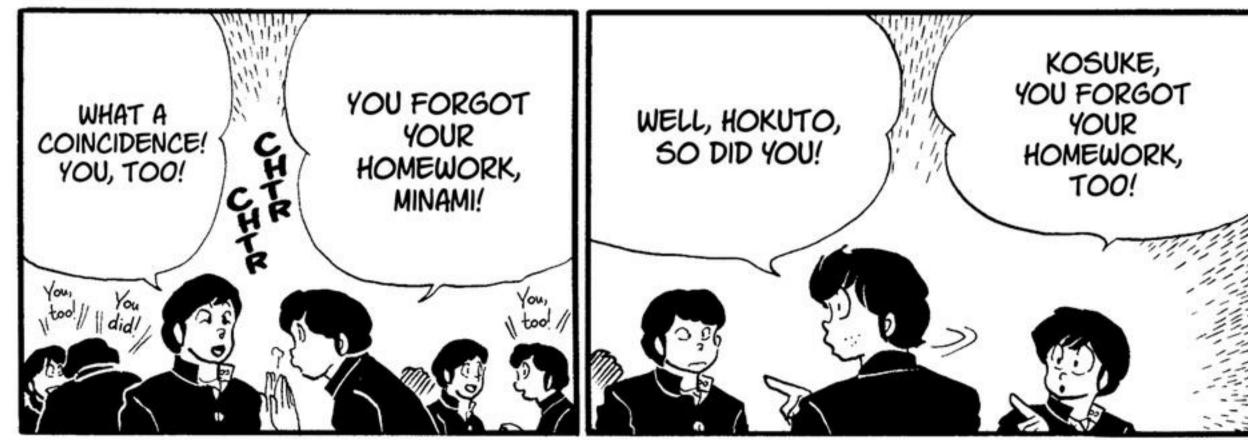




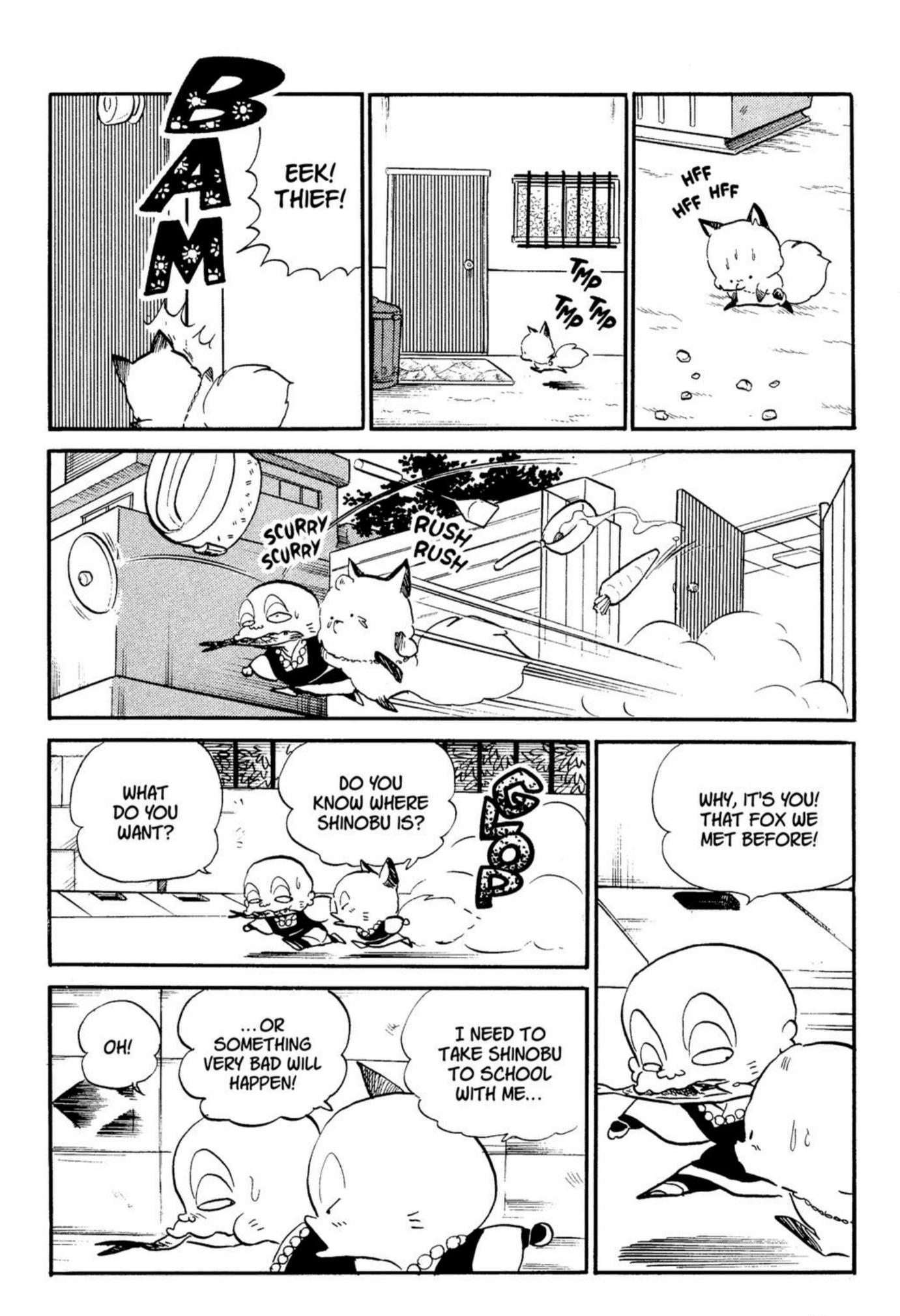


DESTINY BROUGHT US TOGETHER AS CLASSMATES!

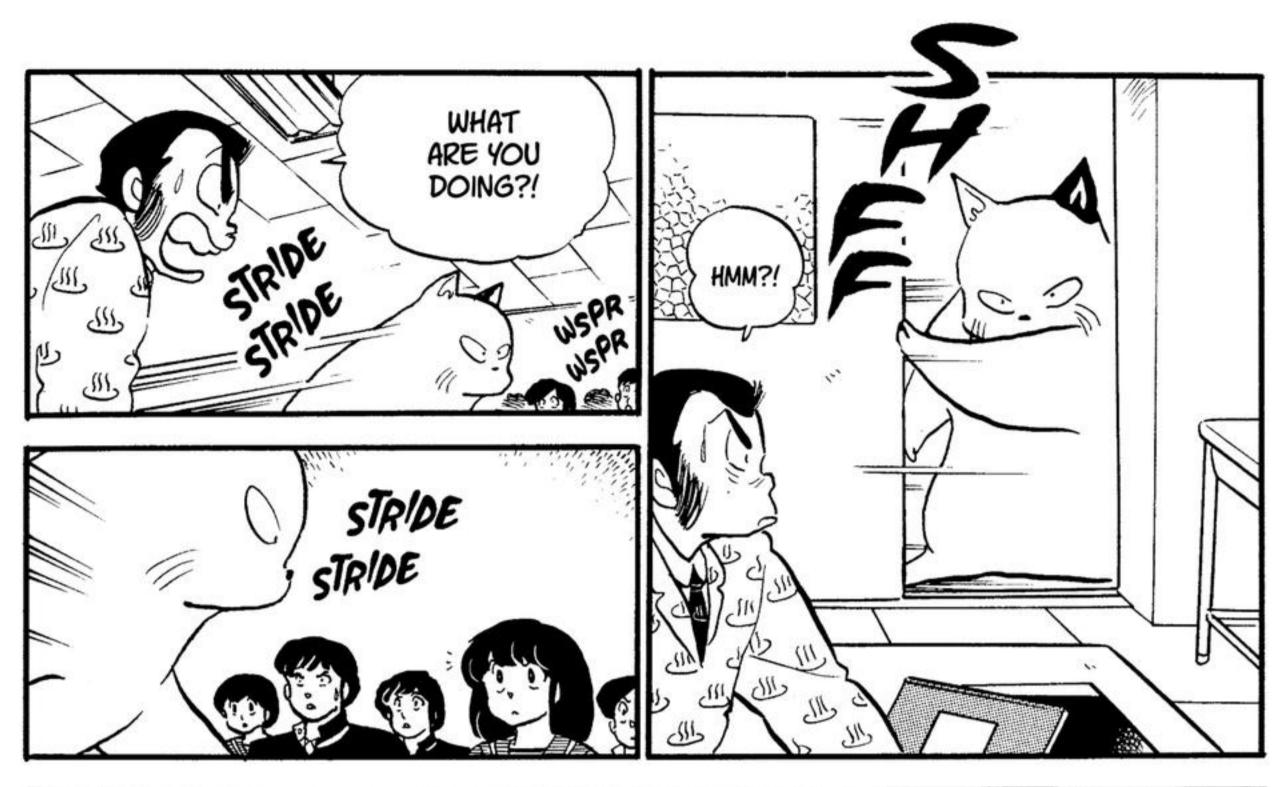




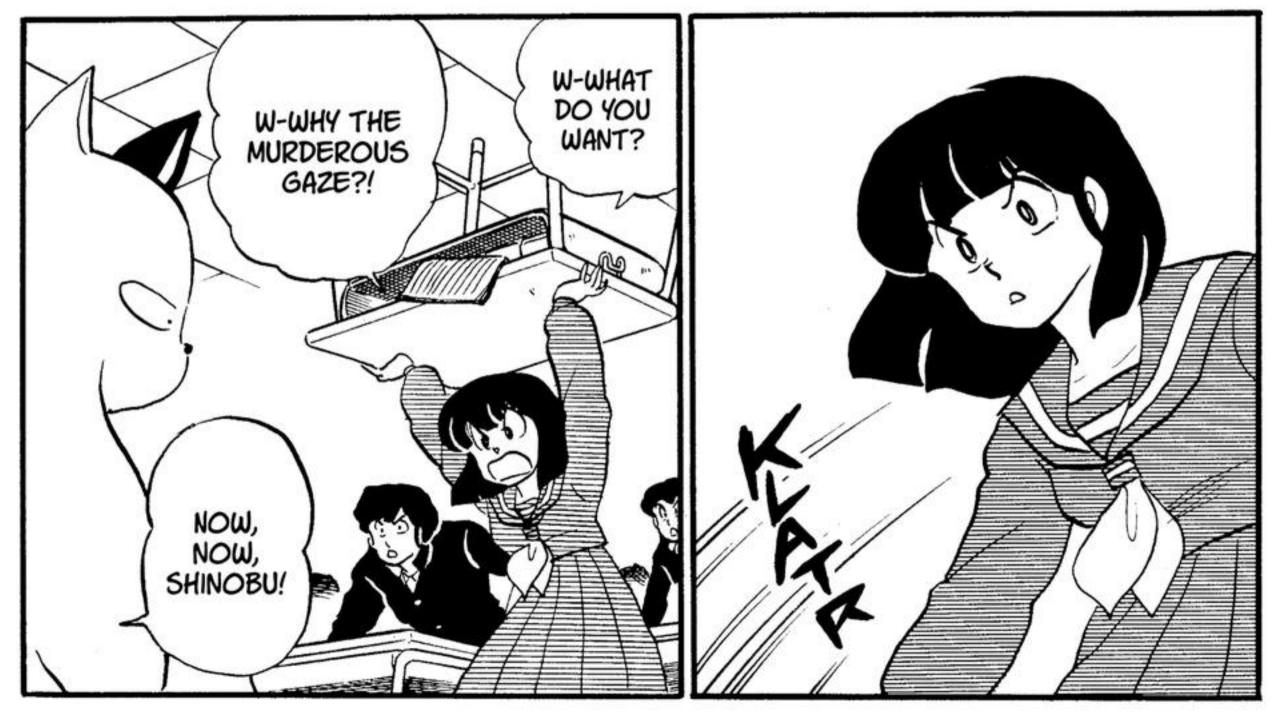


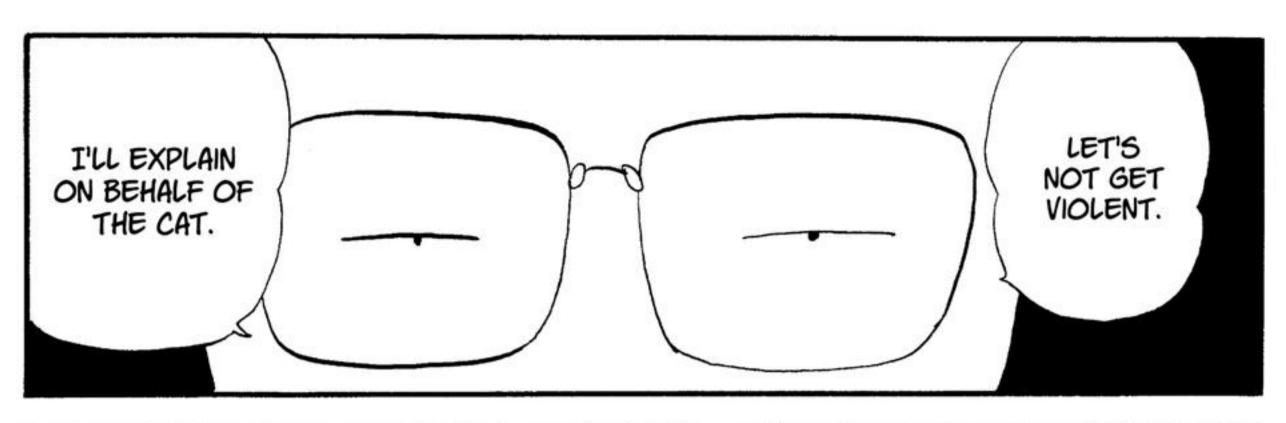




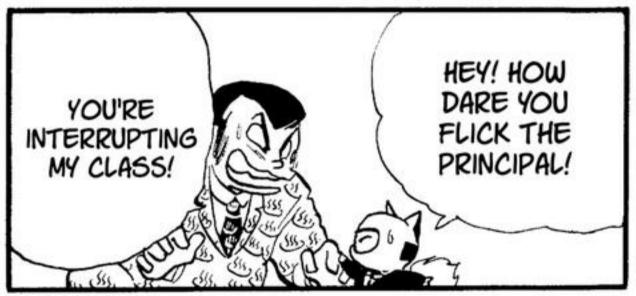




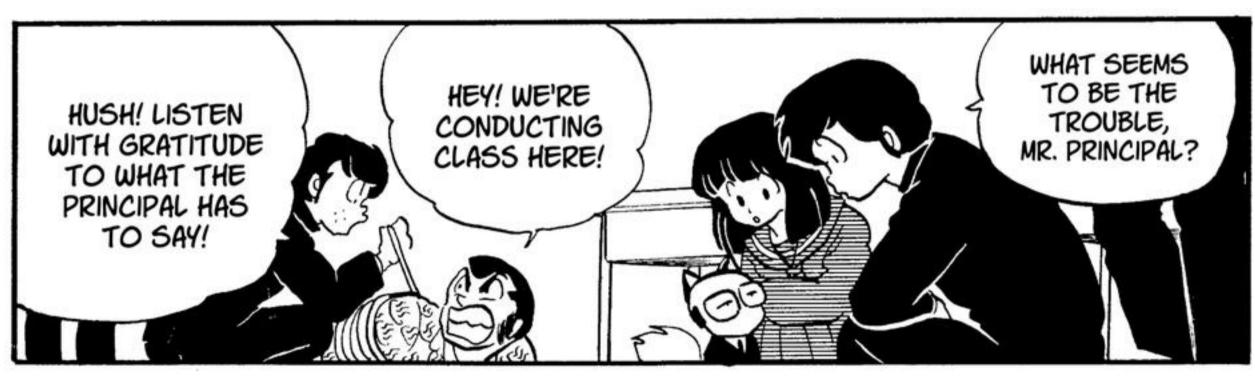


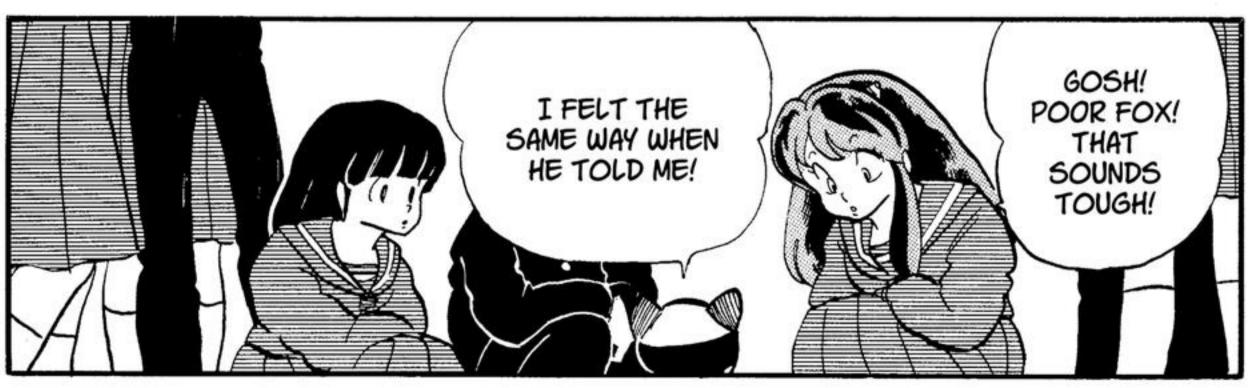










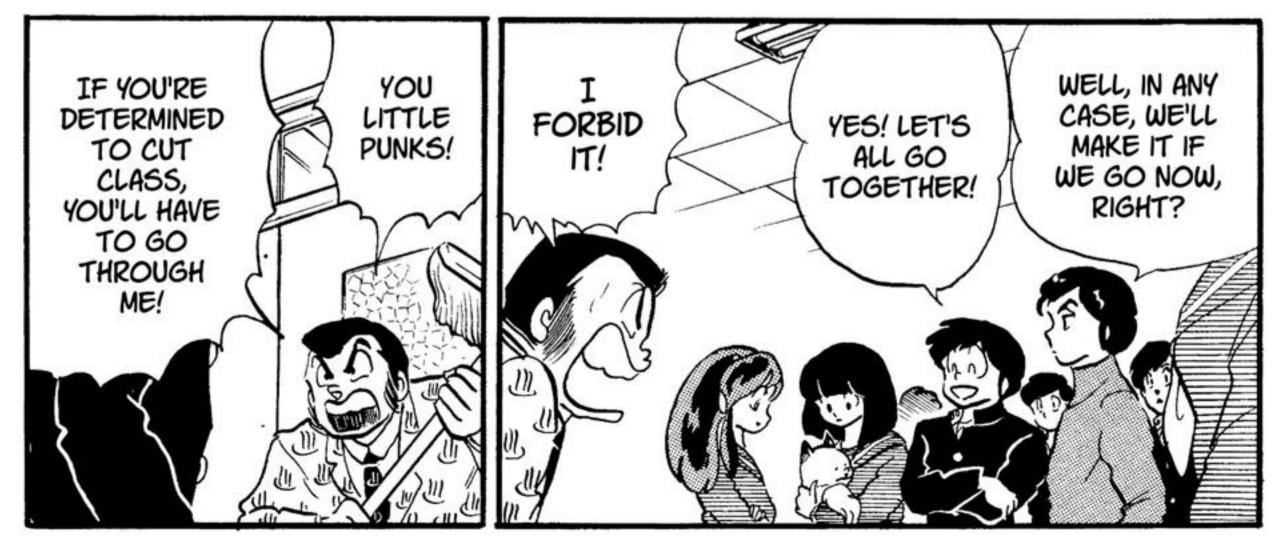


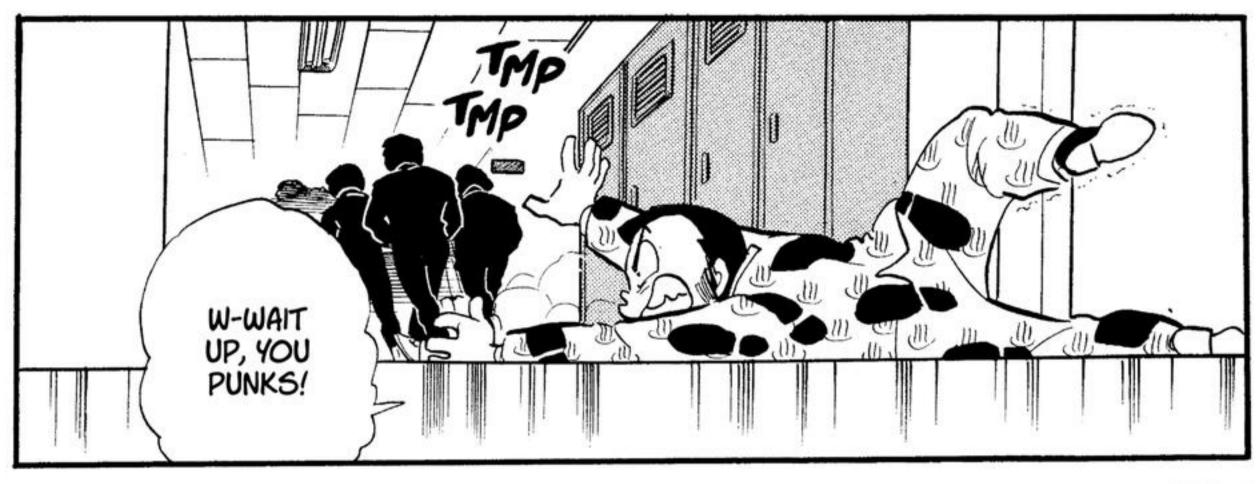




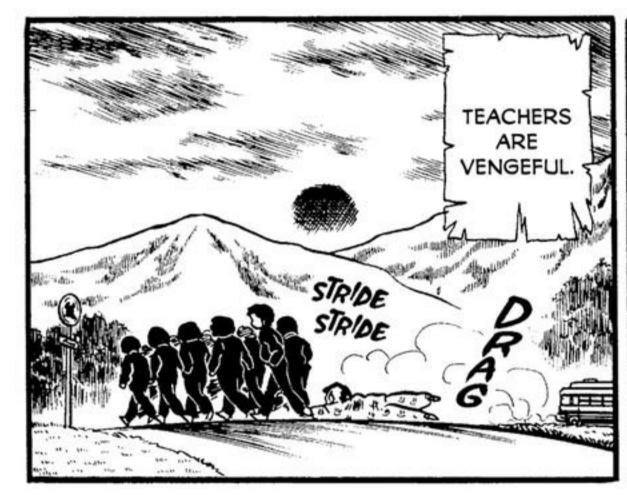


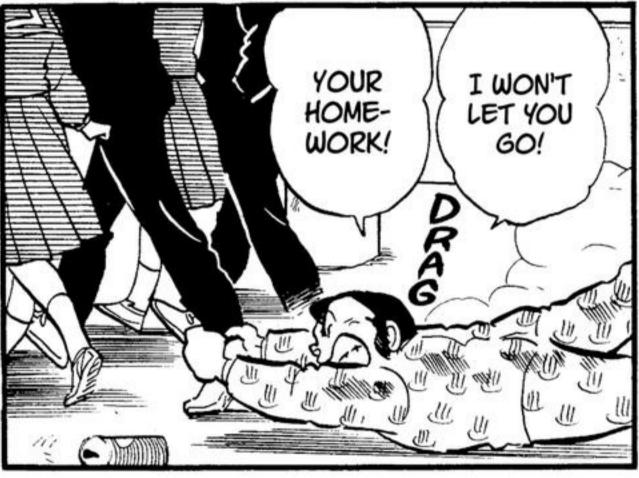


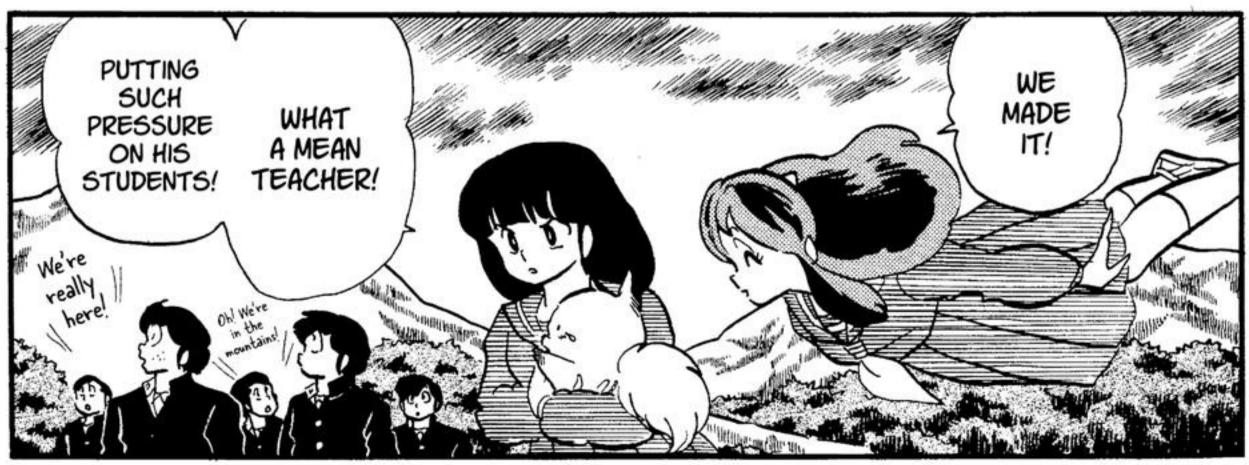








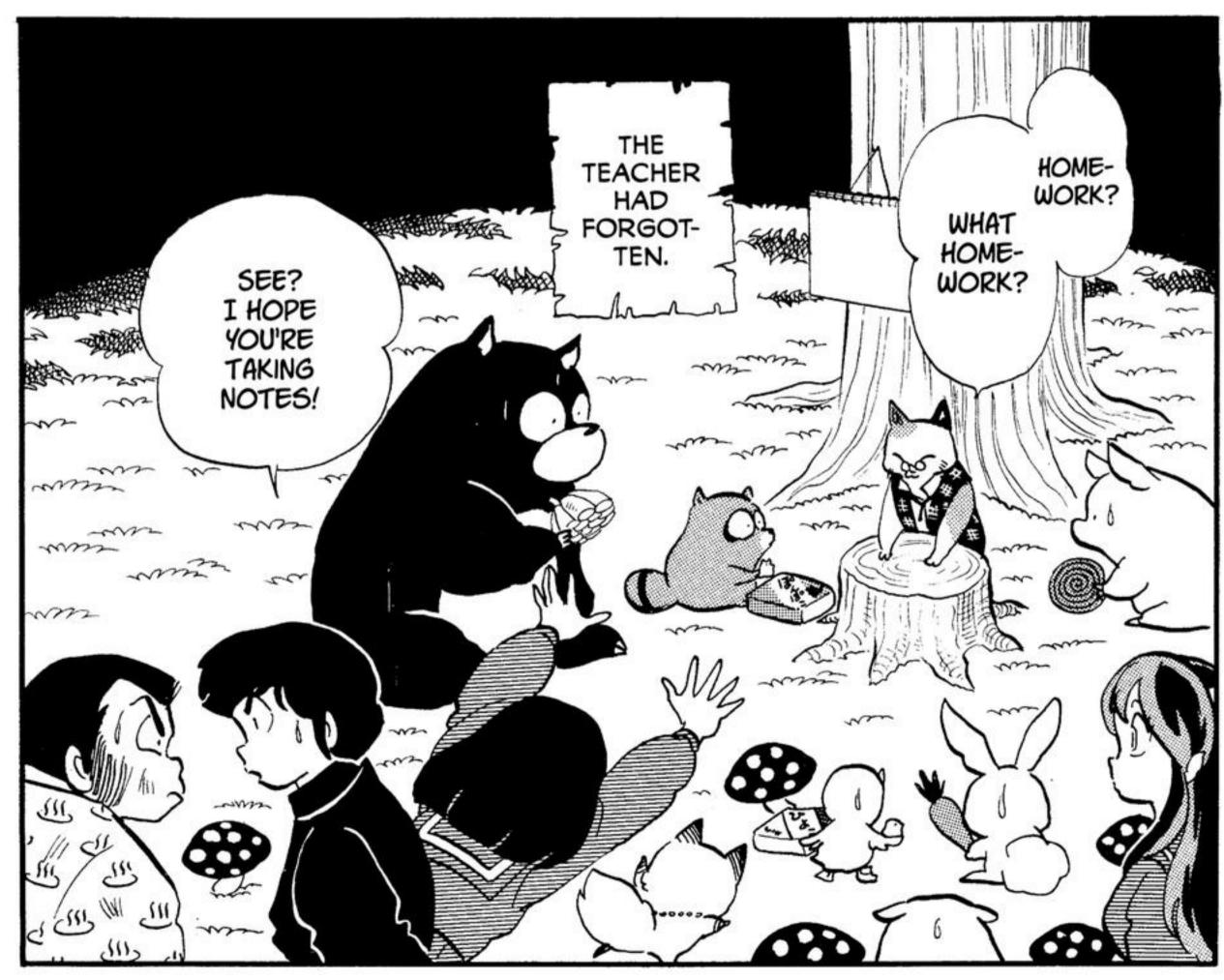












## CHAPTER 4: LOVE HIDDEN IN THE O-DEN

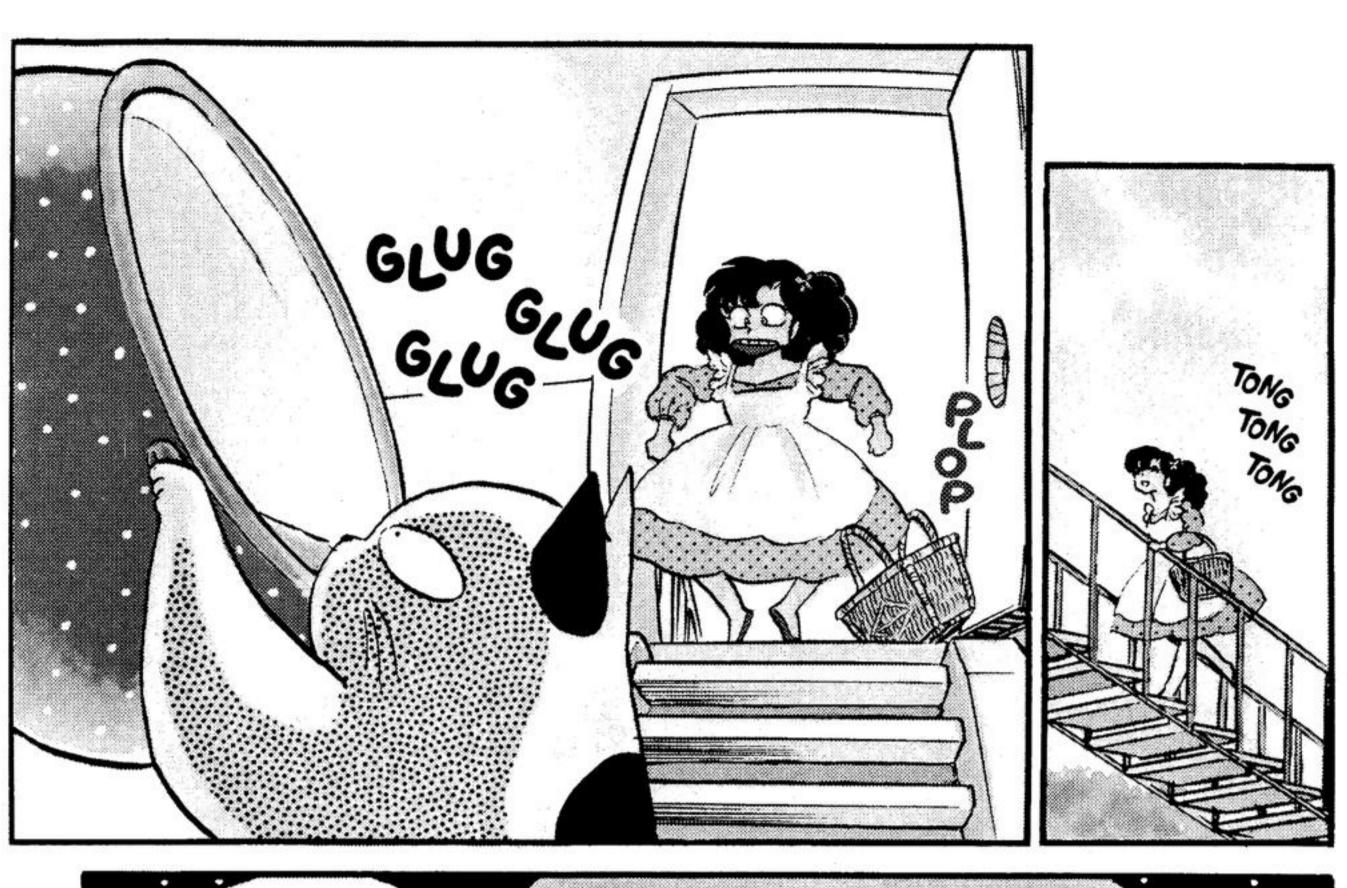








































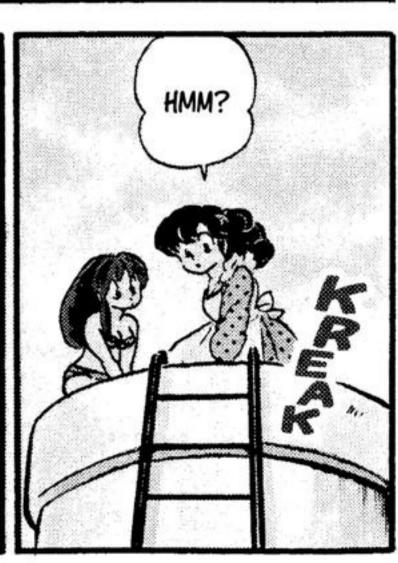


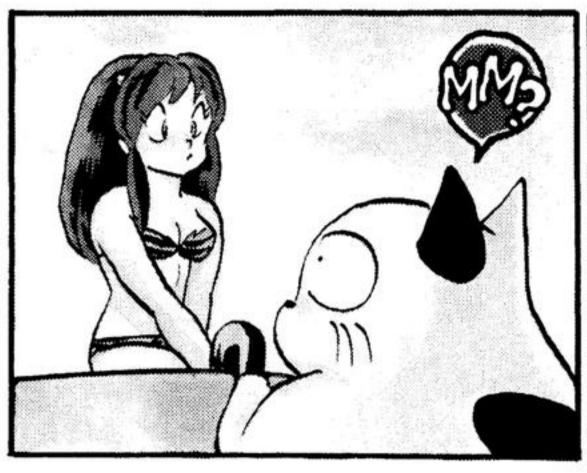








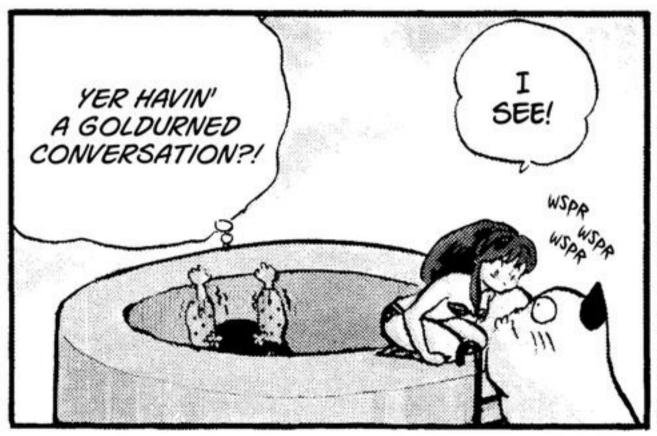


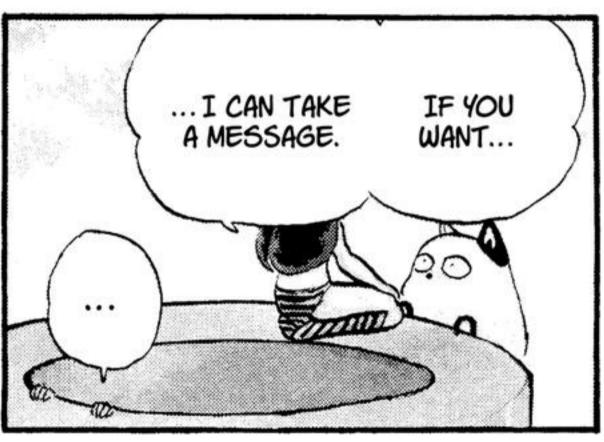






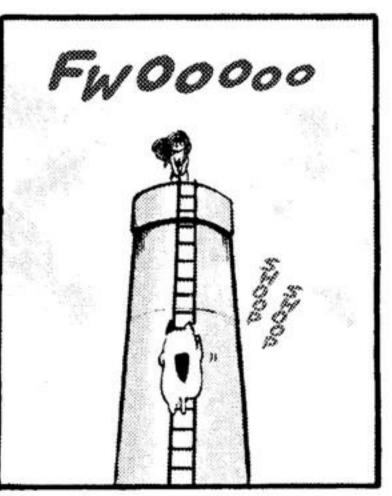








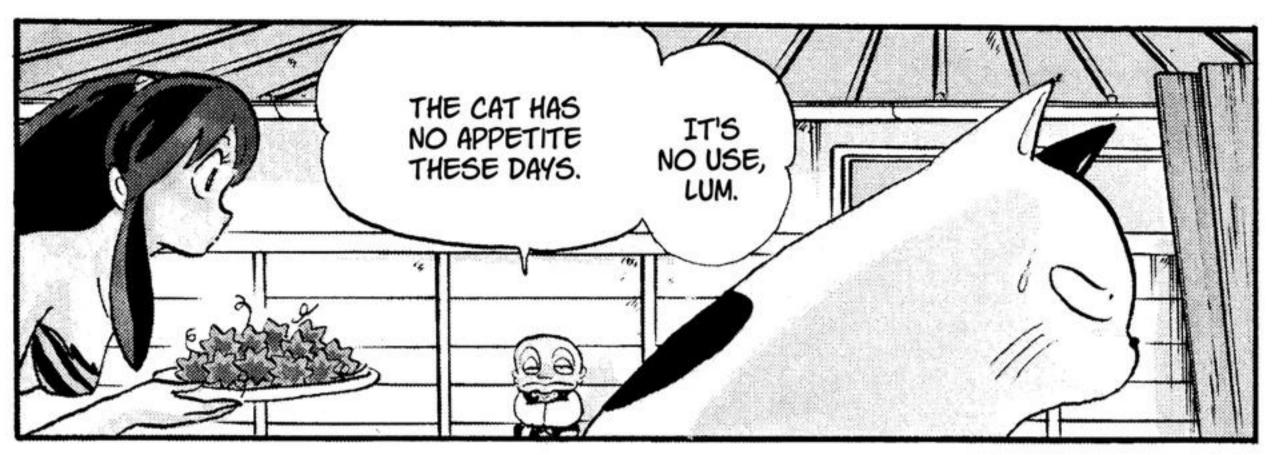








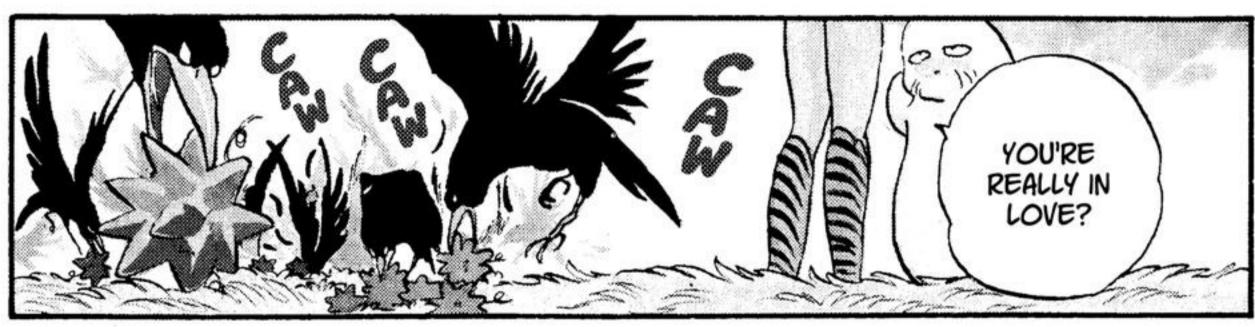






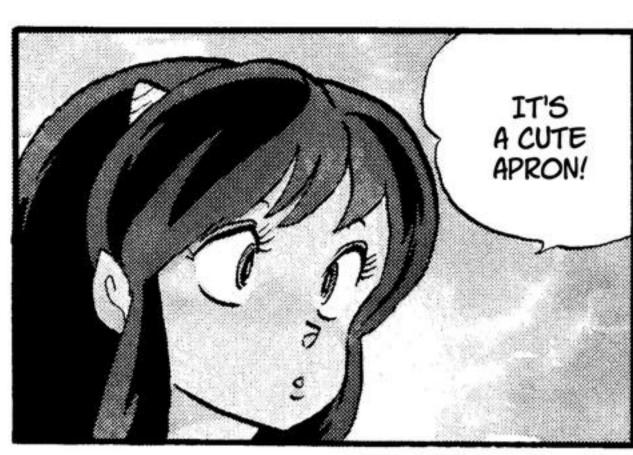
















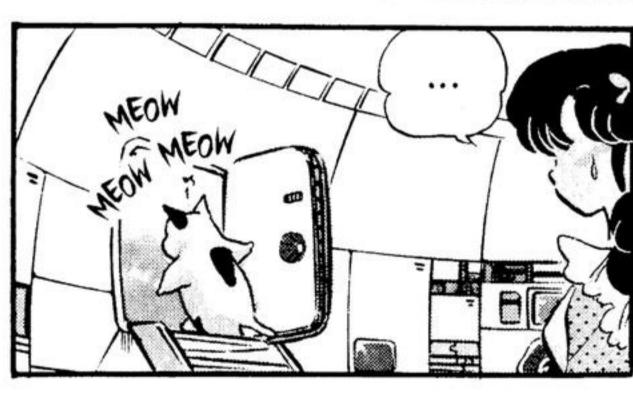




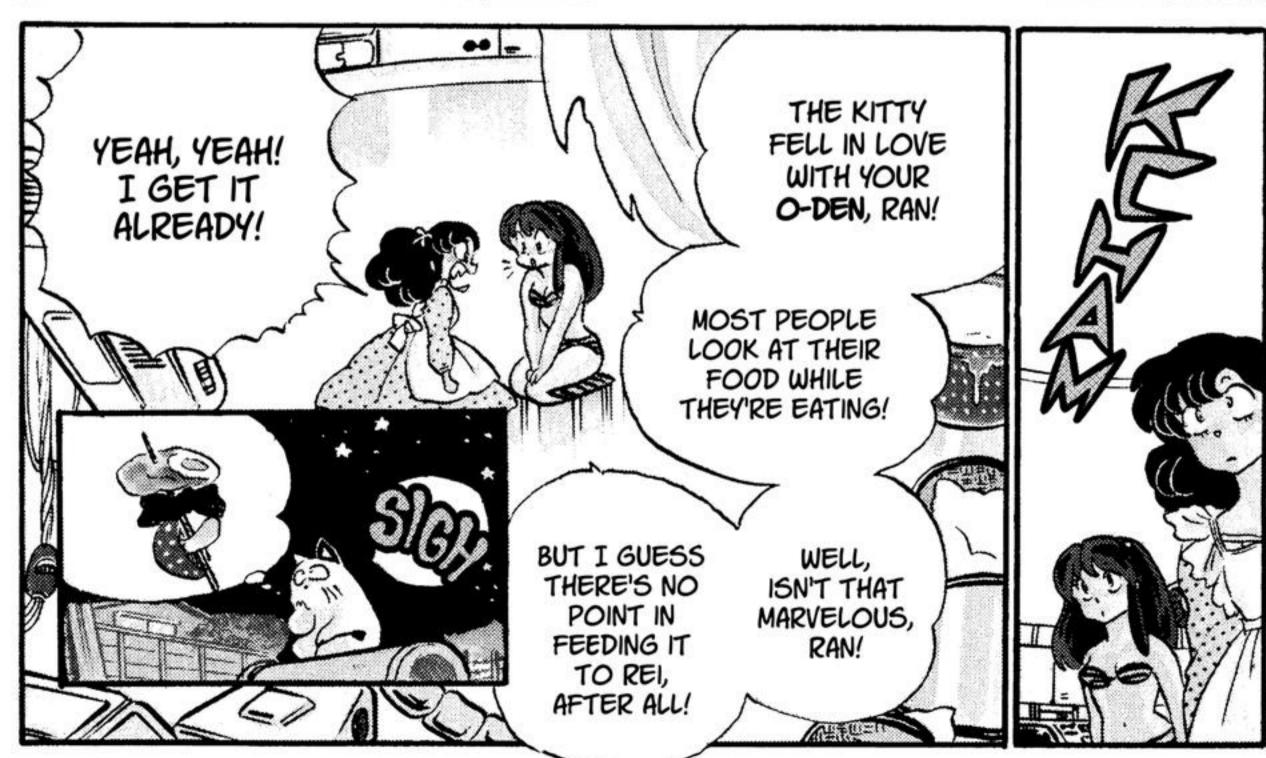










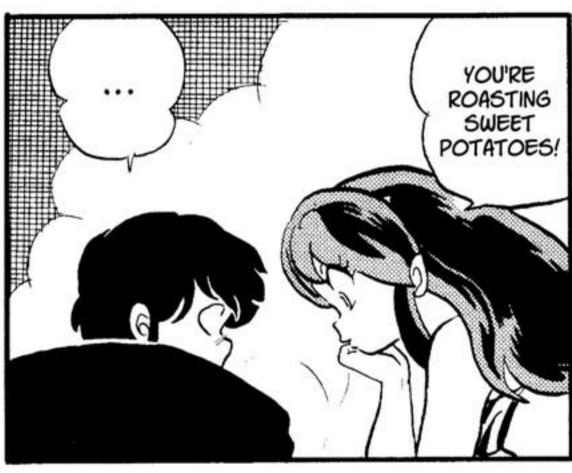


## CHAPTER 5: THE TRAGIC TWILIGHT HOUR OF AUTUMN POTATOES







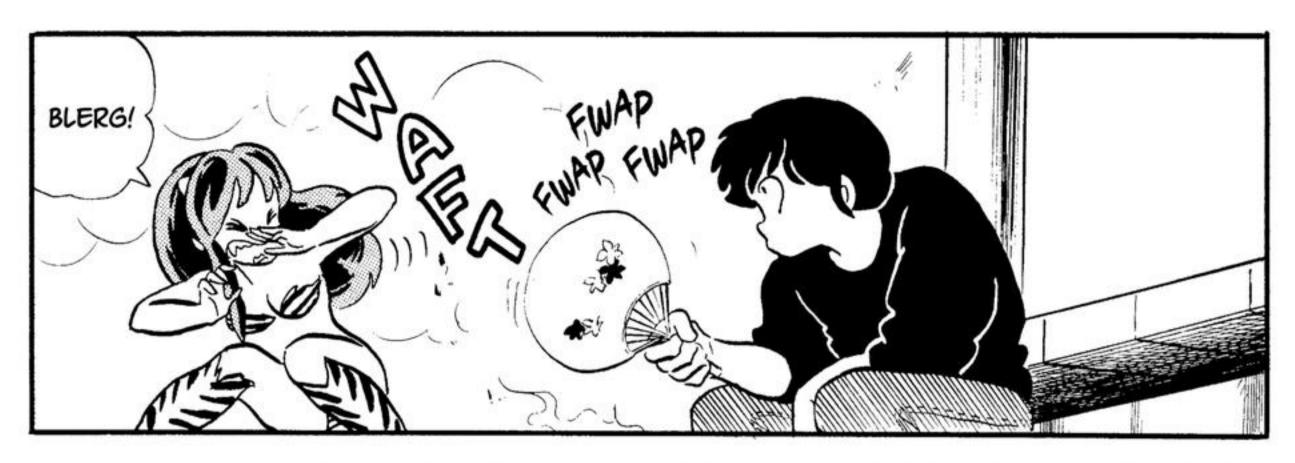












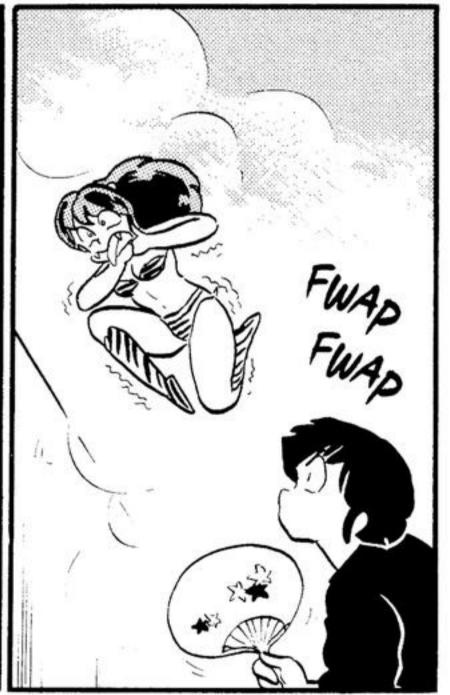
































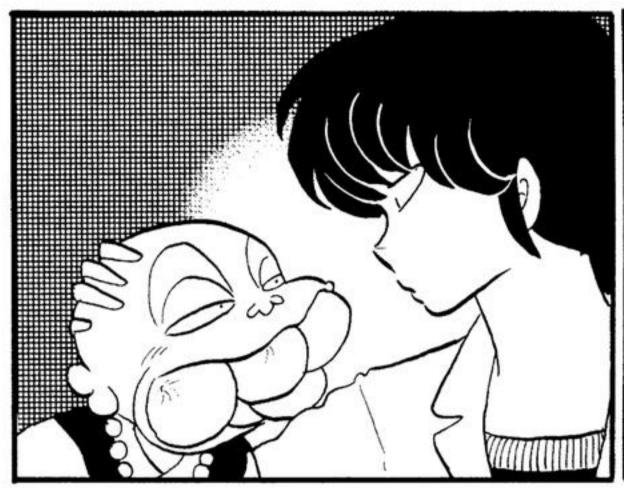






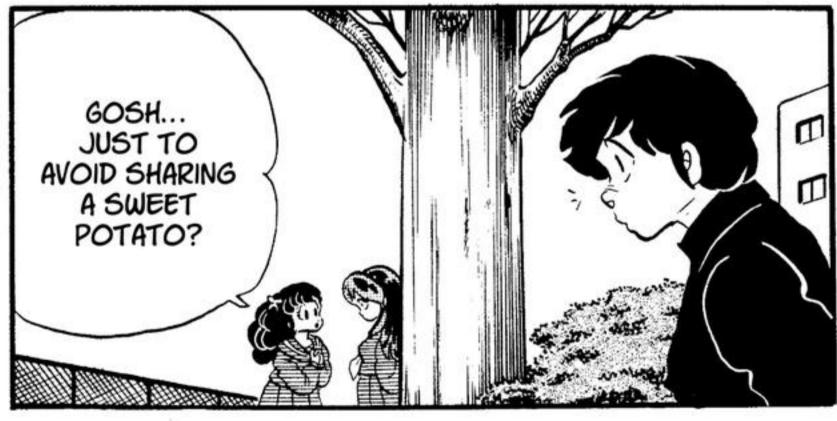






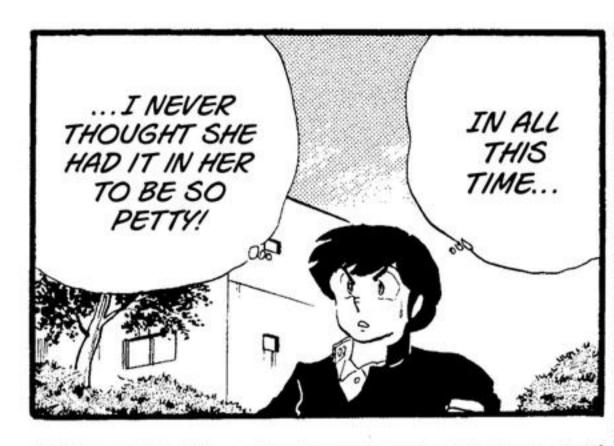




















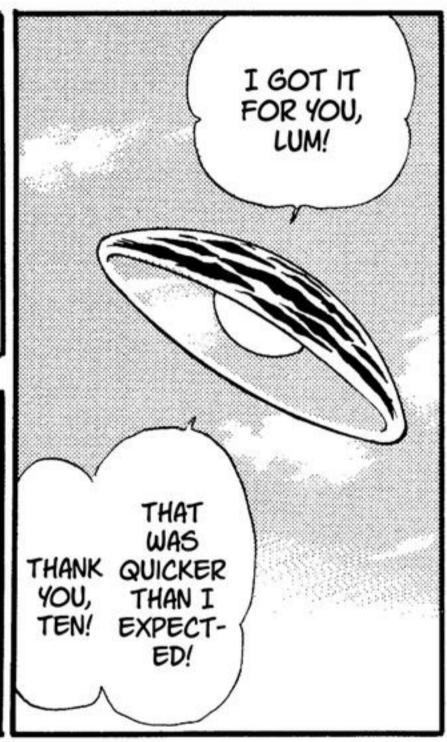


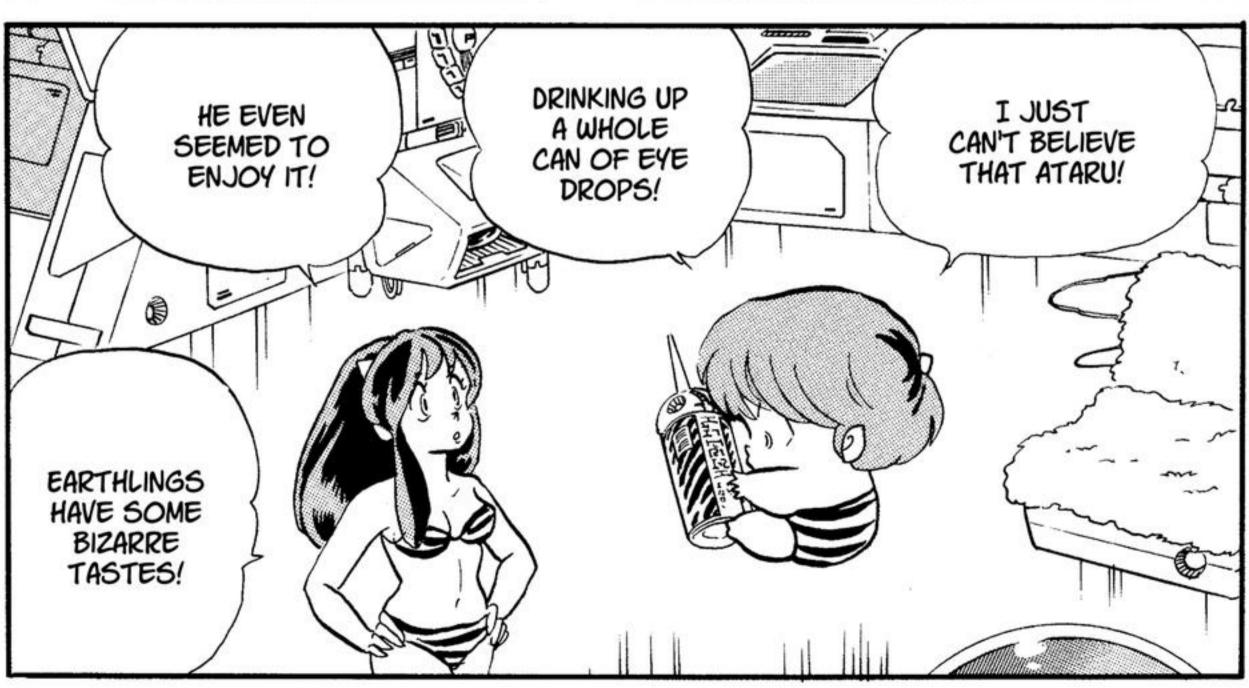














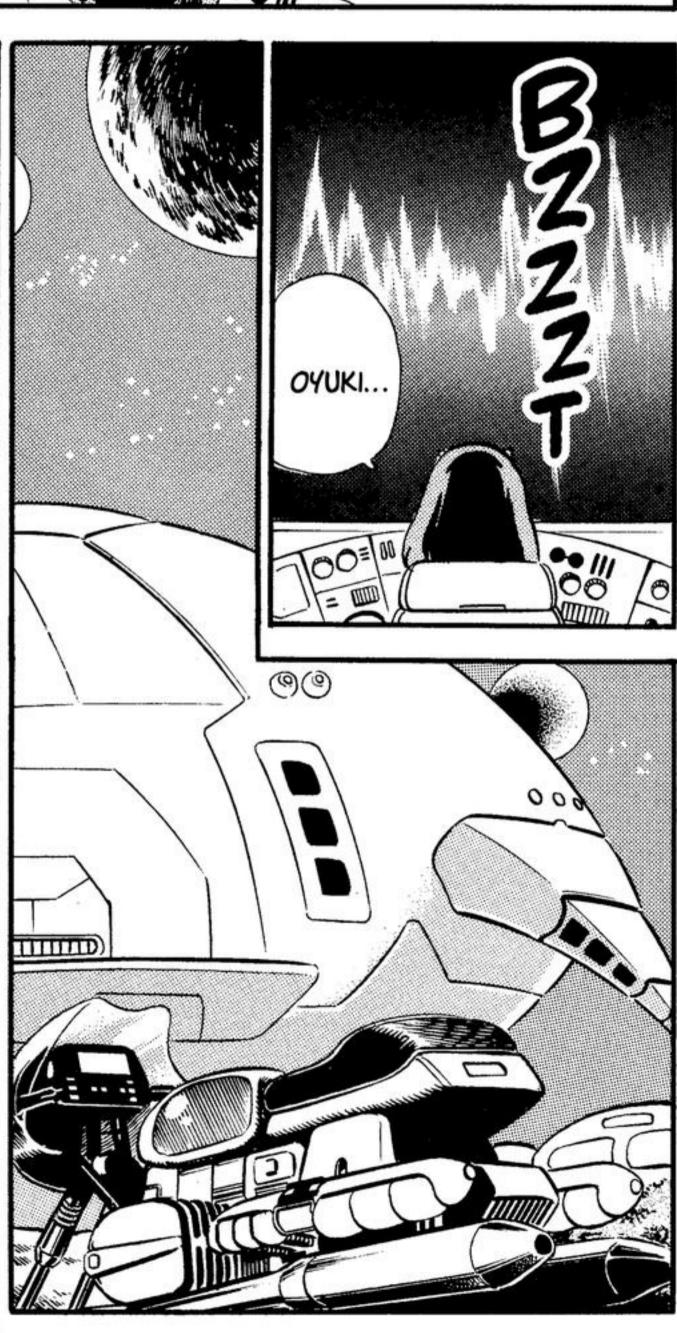
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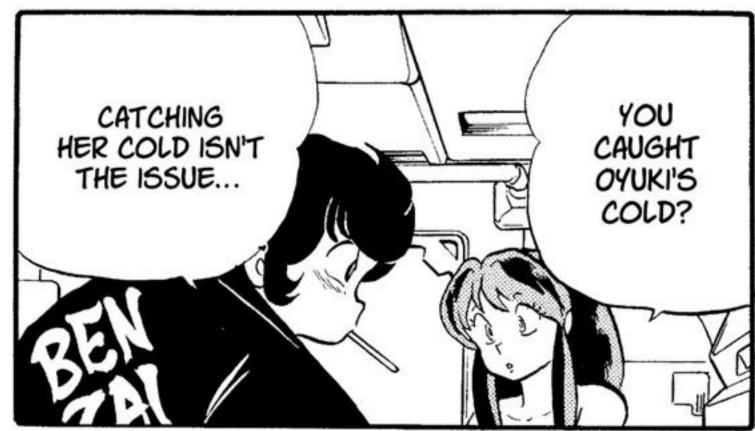






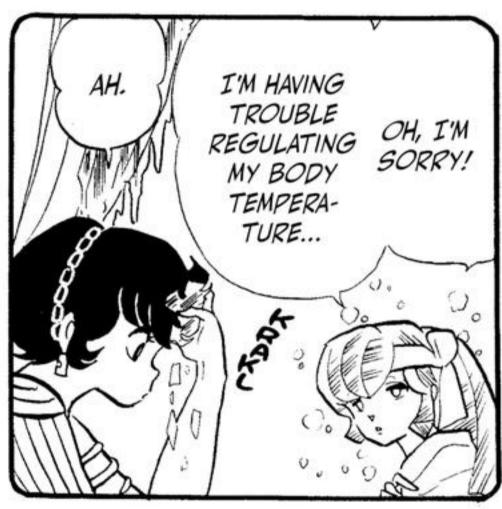




























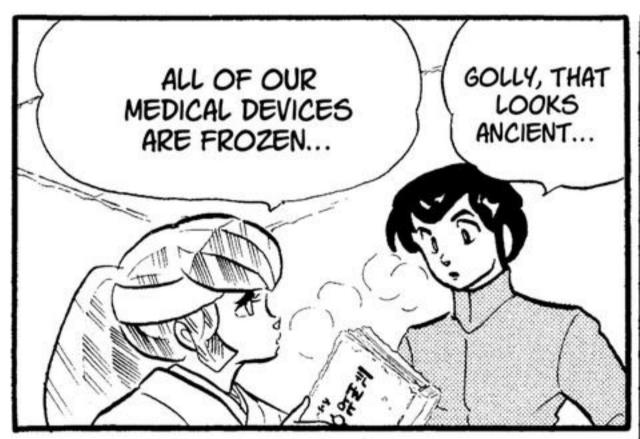
















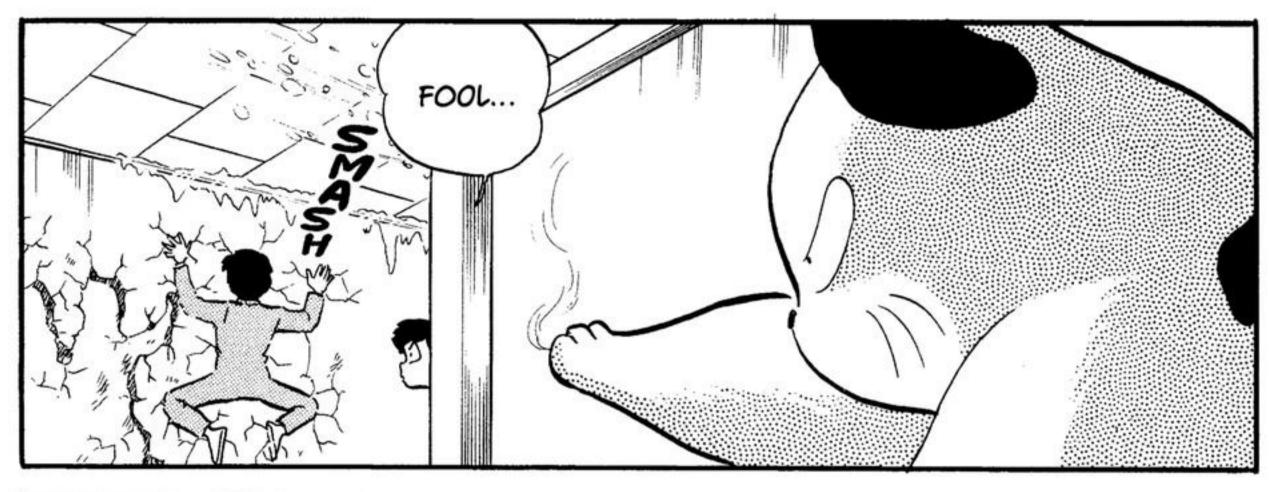


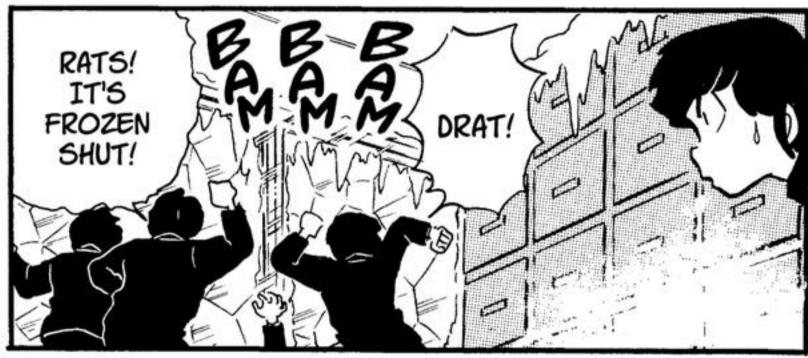










































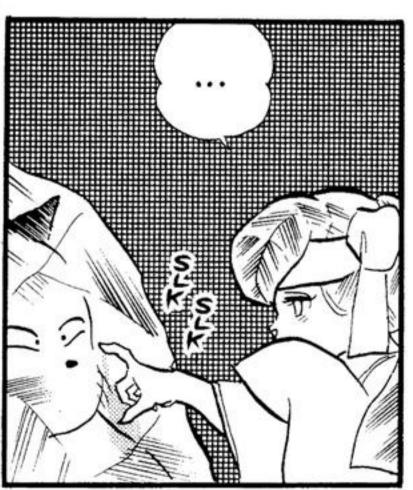








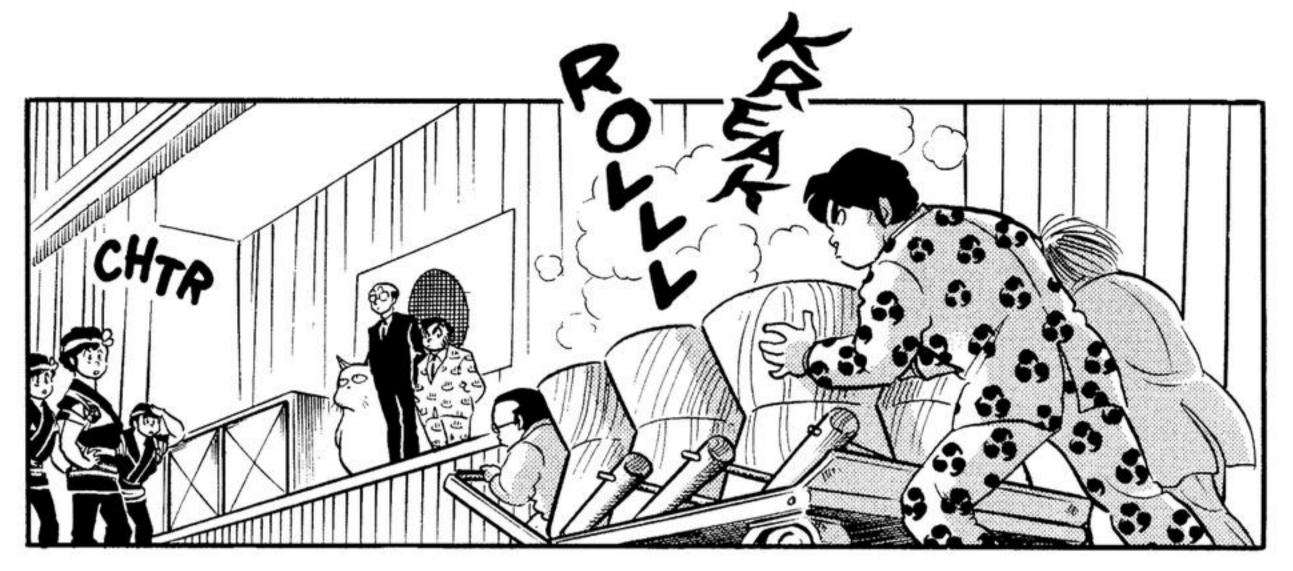


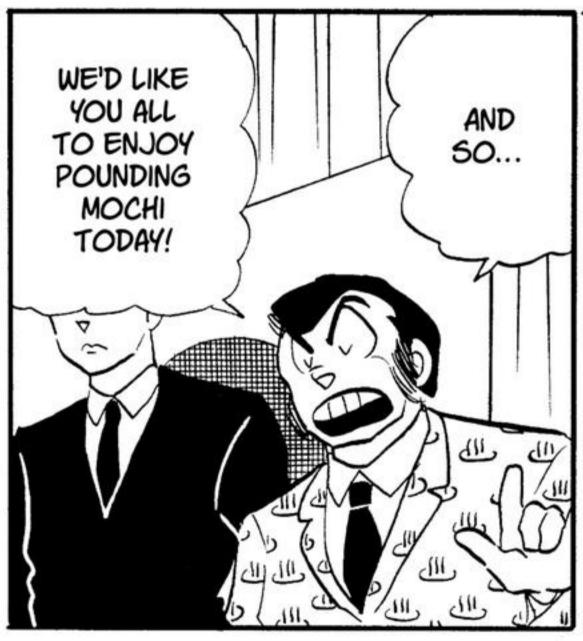


## CHAPTER 7: MOCHI MAYHEM— SCULPT THE PRINCIPAL





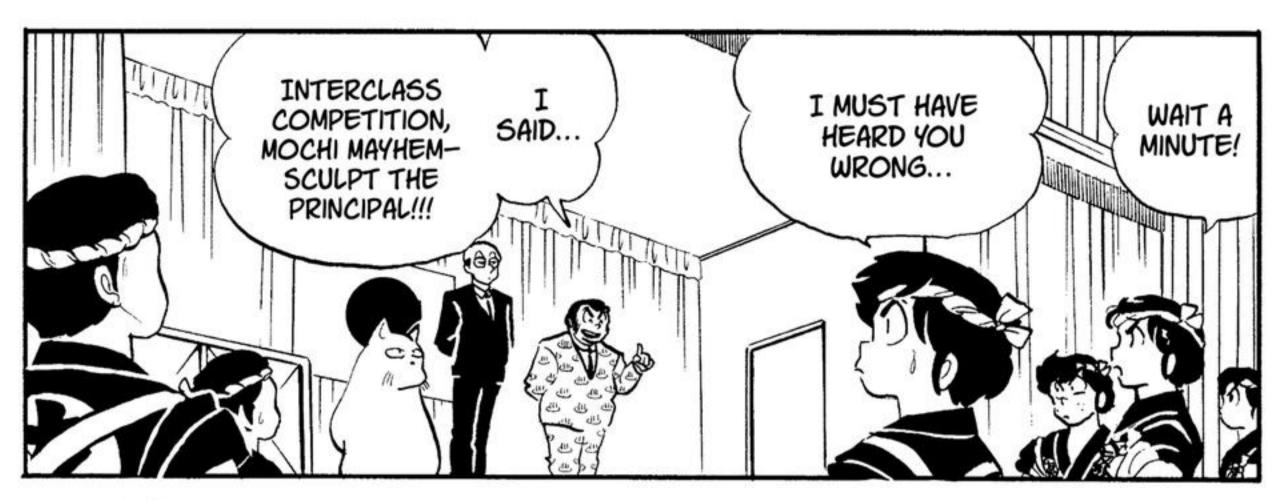










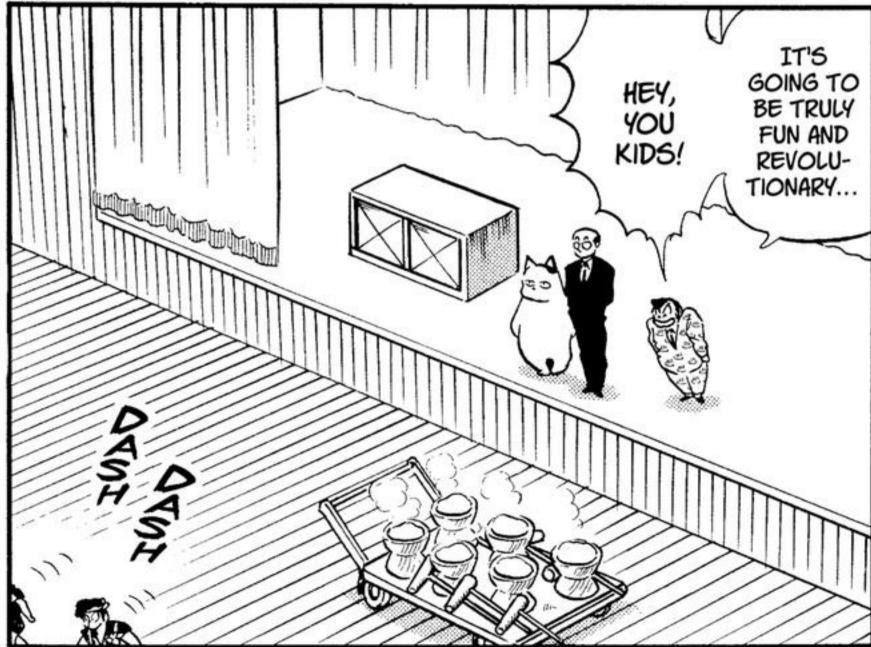


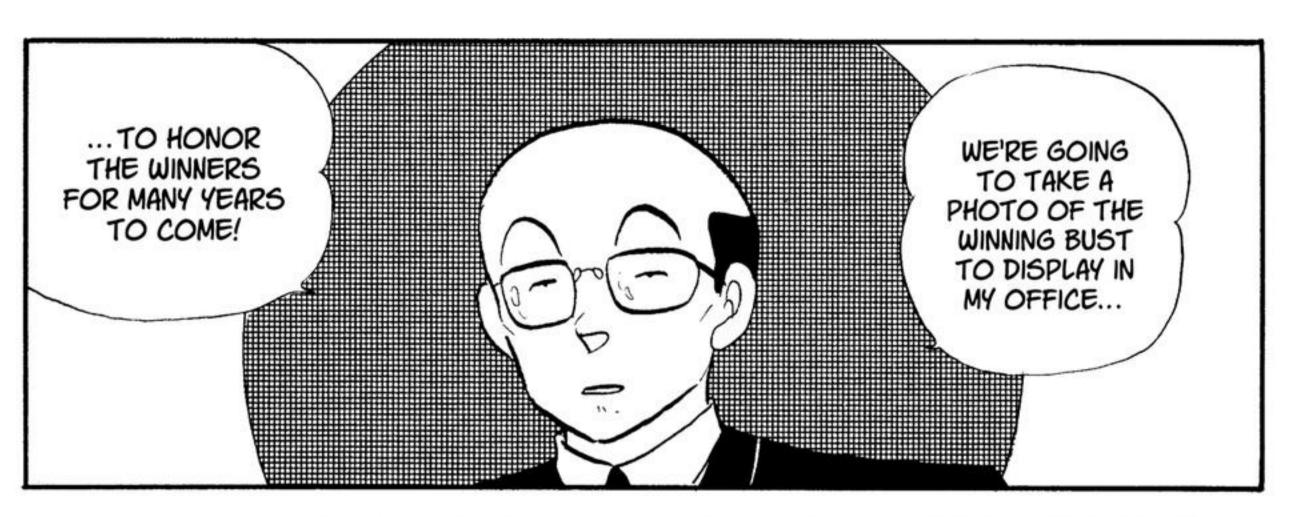


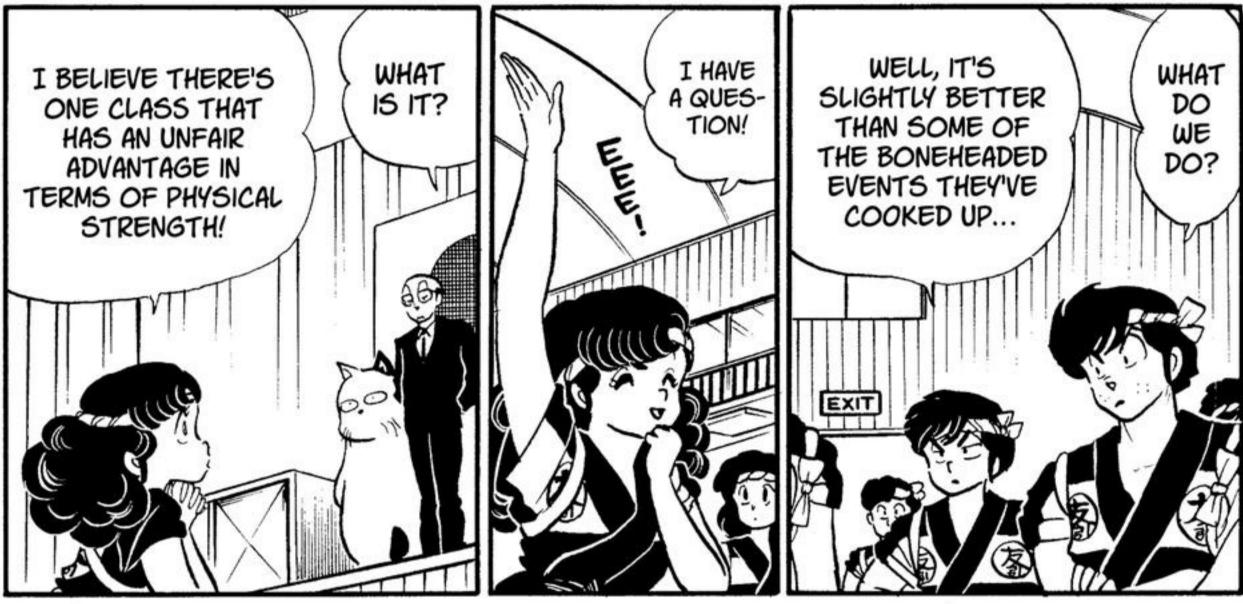


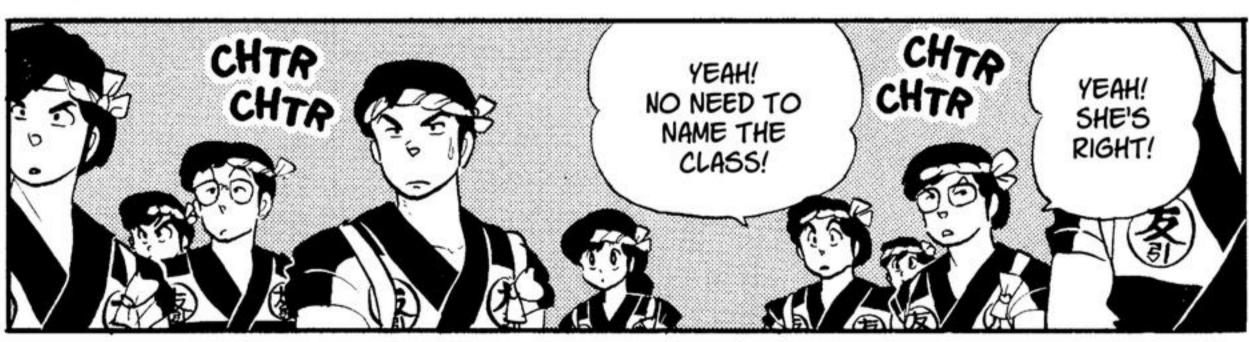






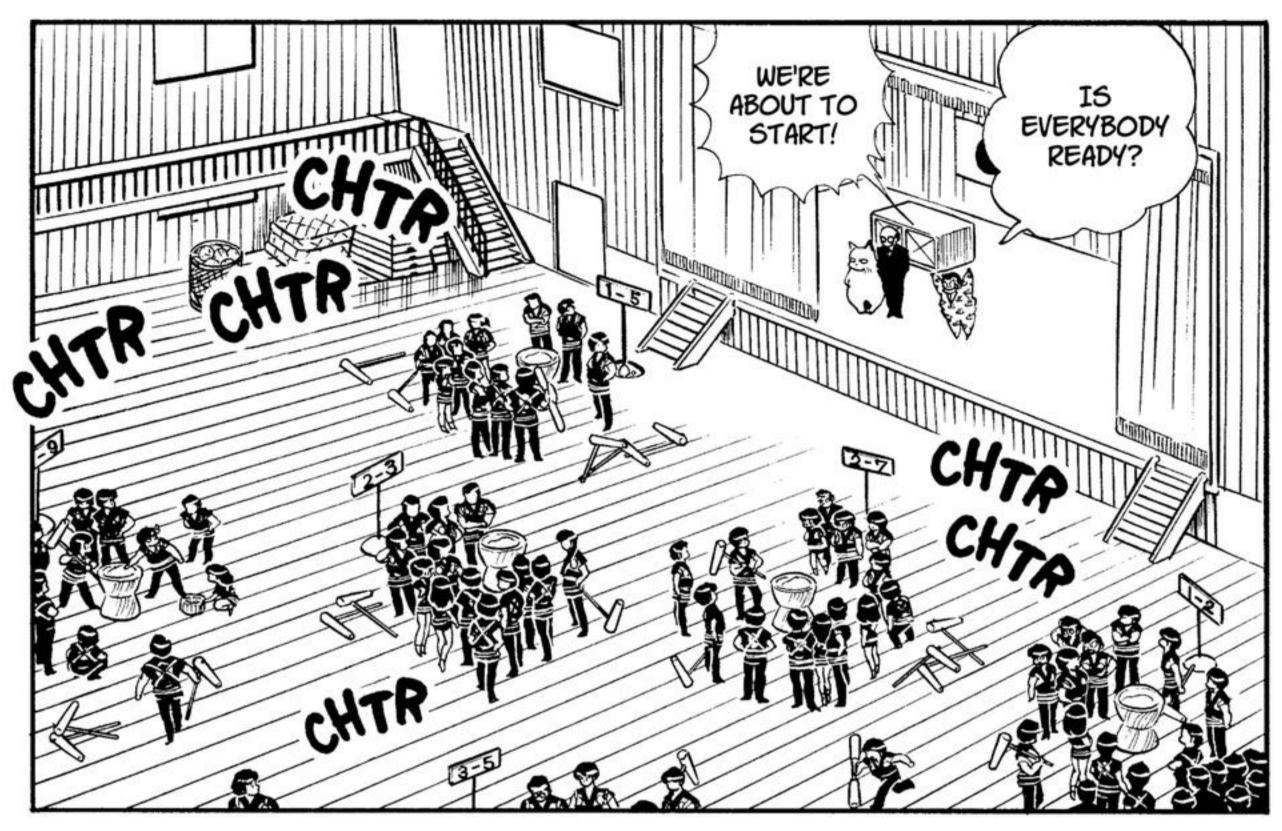






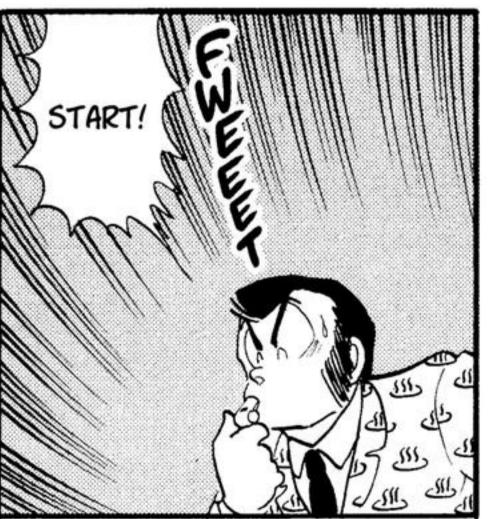






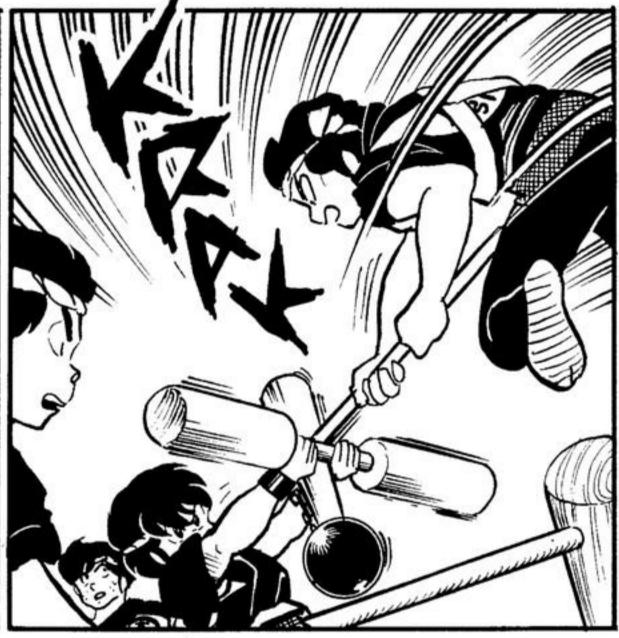


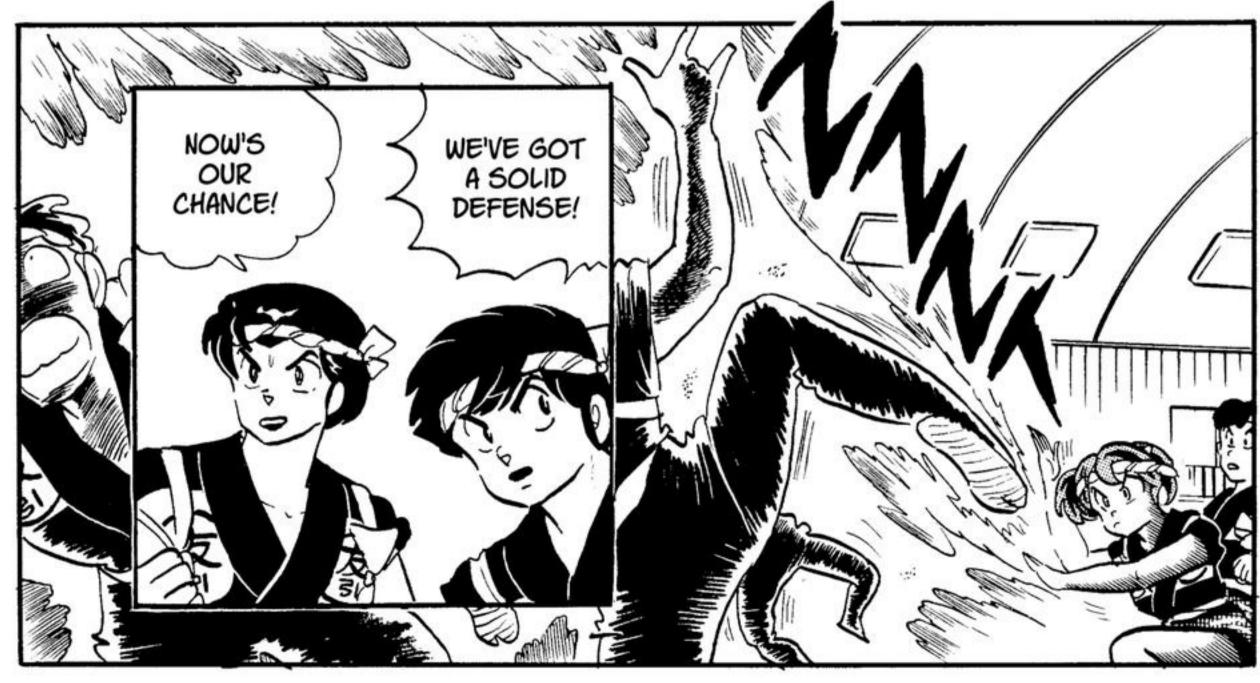






















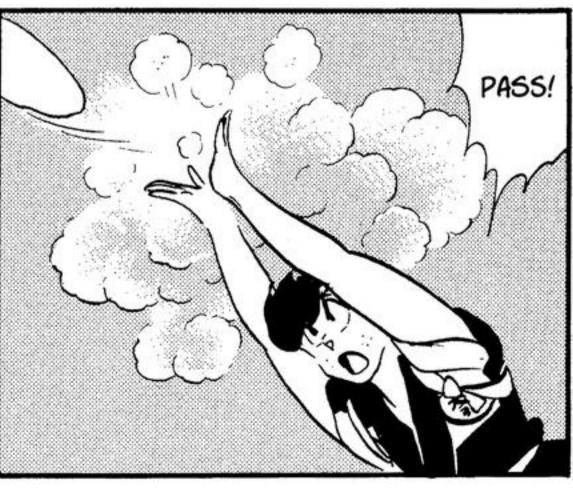


















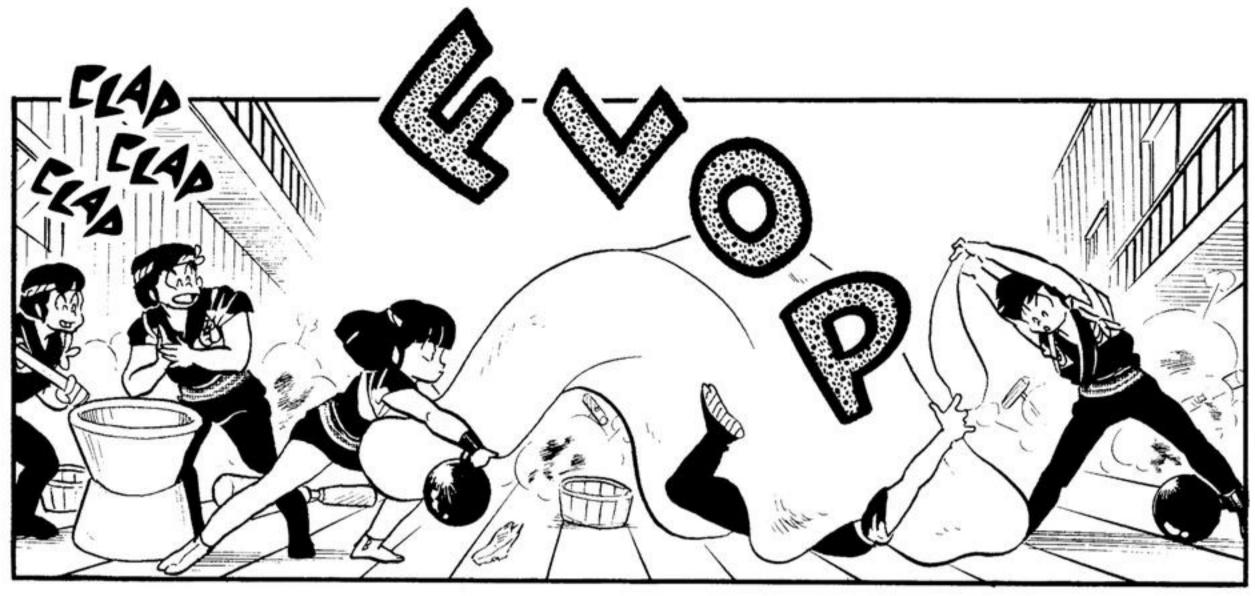
























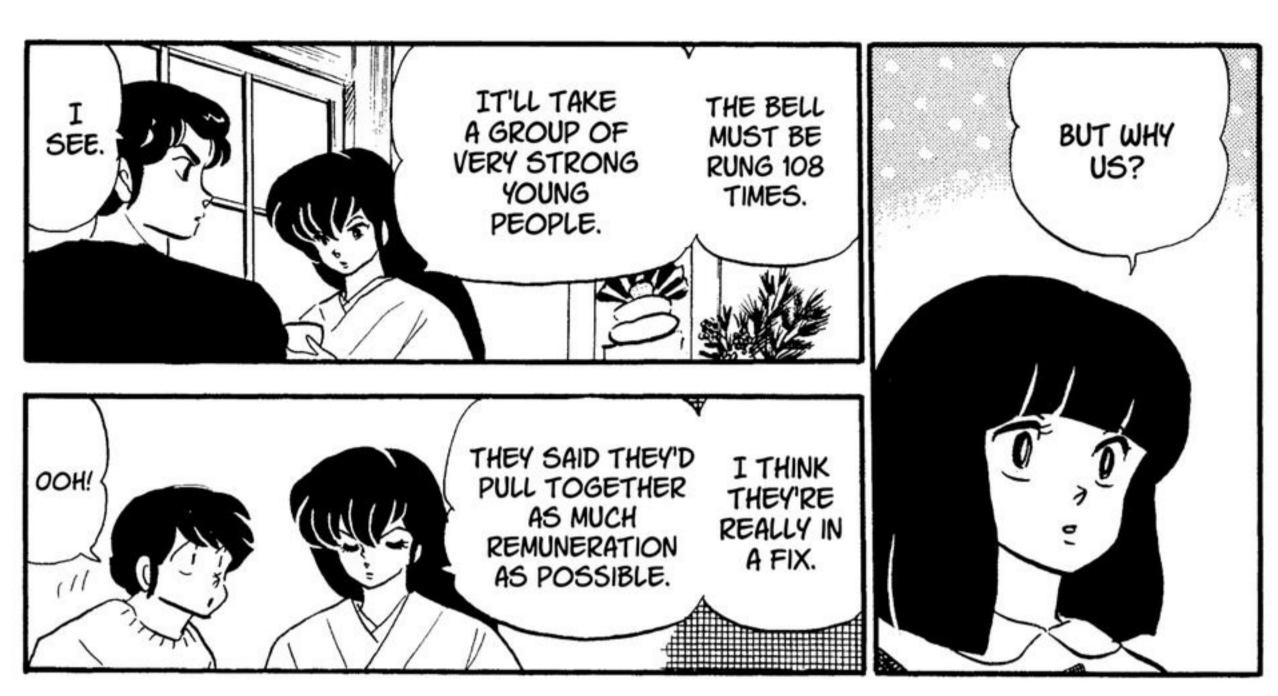




## CHAPTER 8: RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR













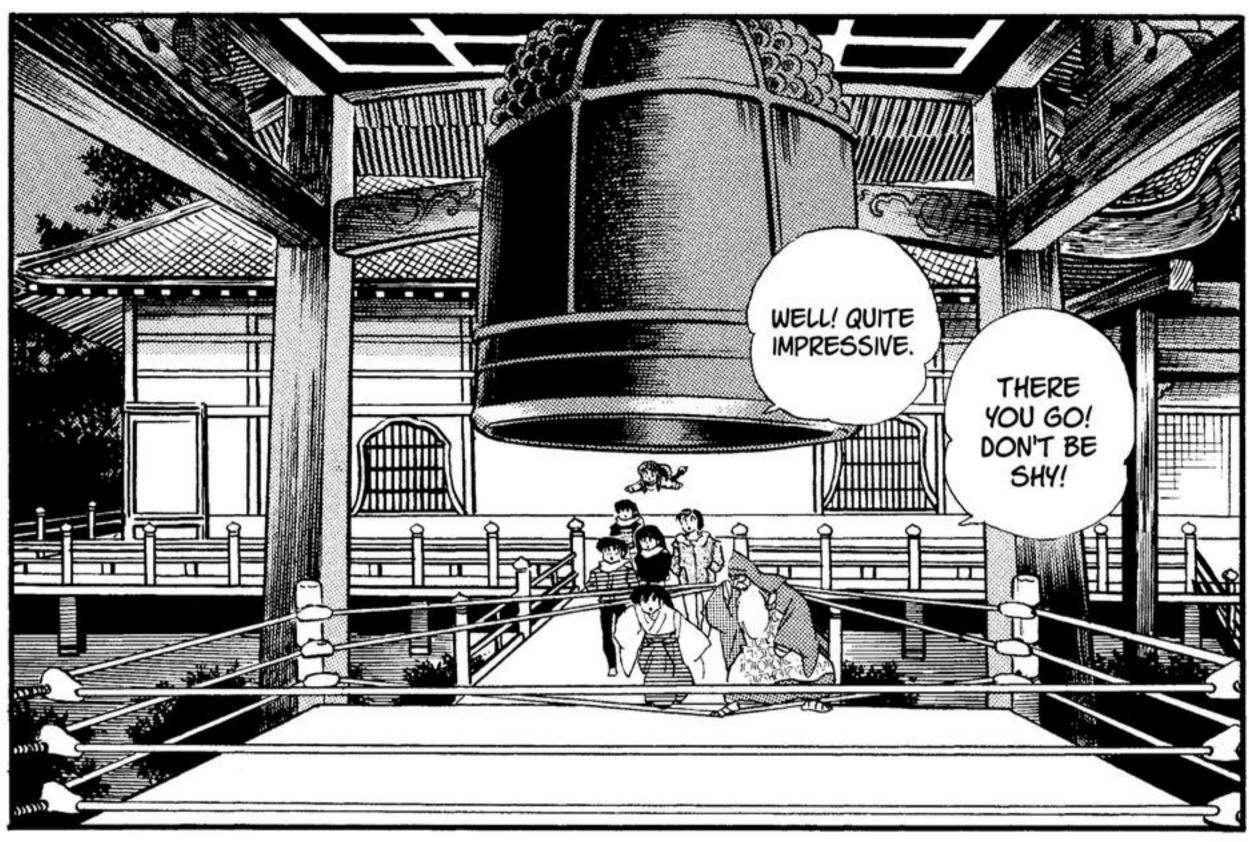










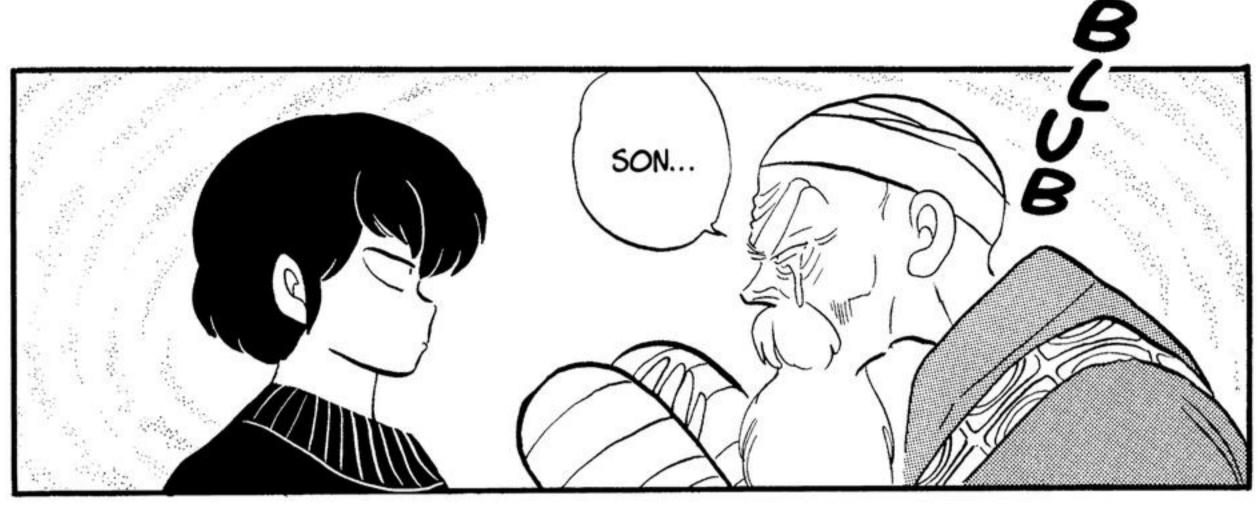
























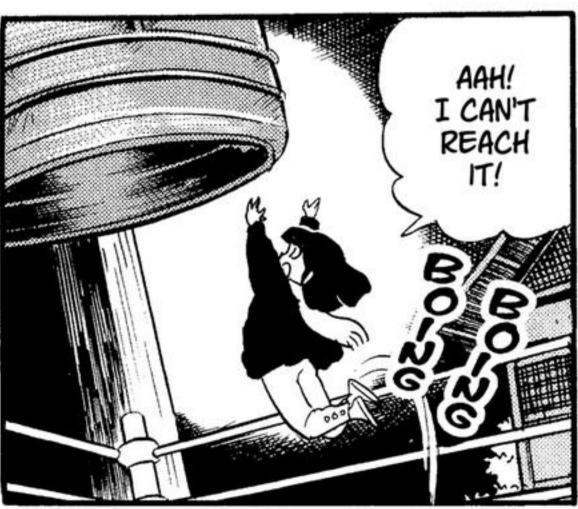












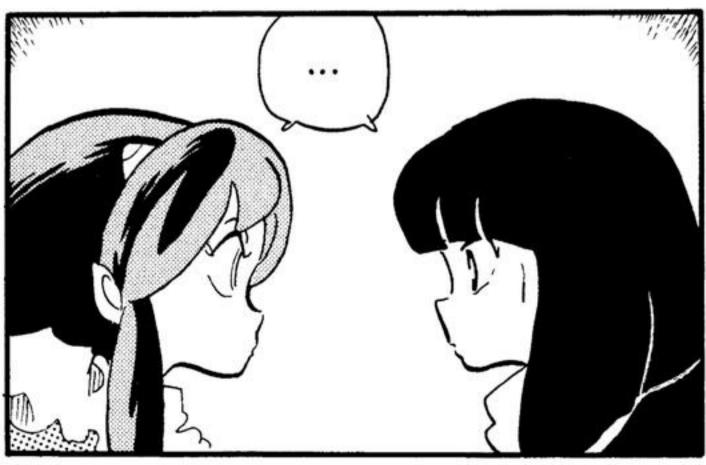














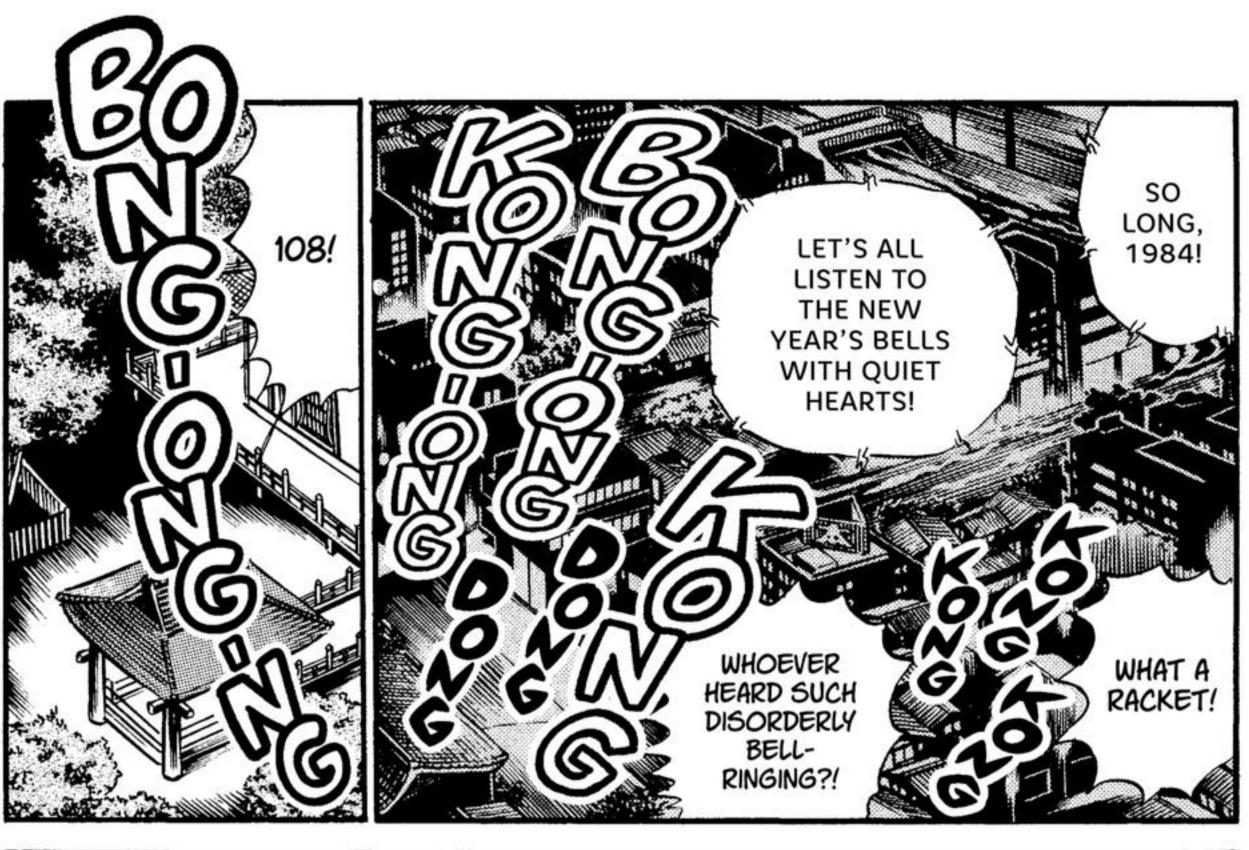








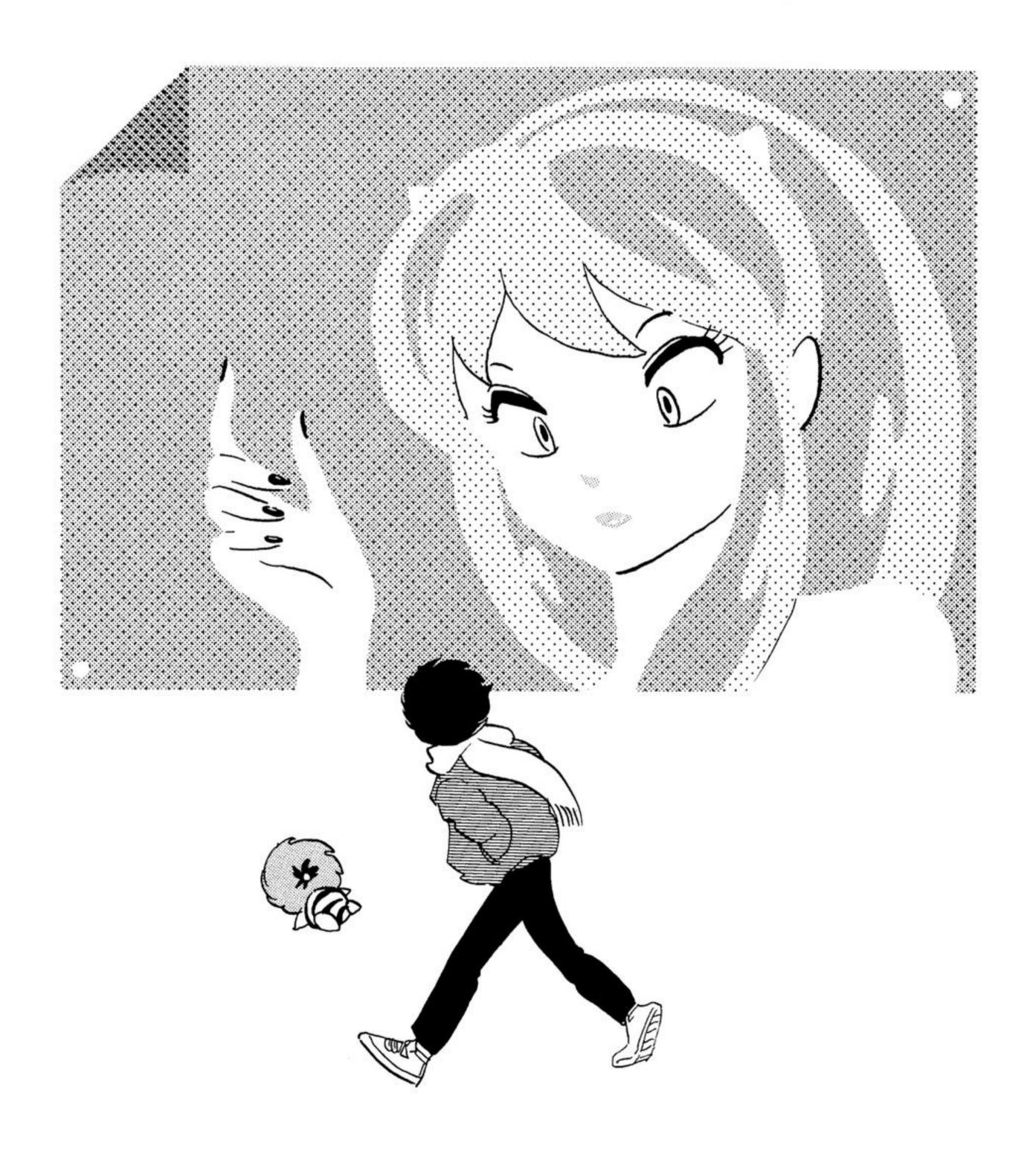


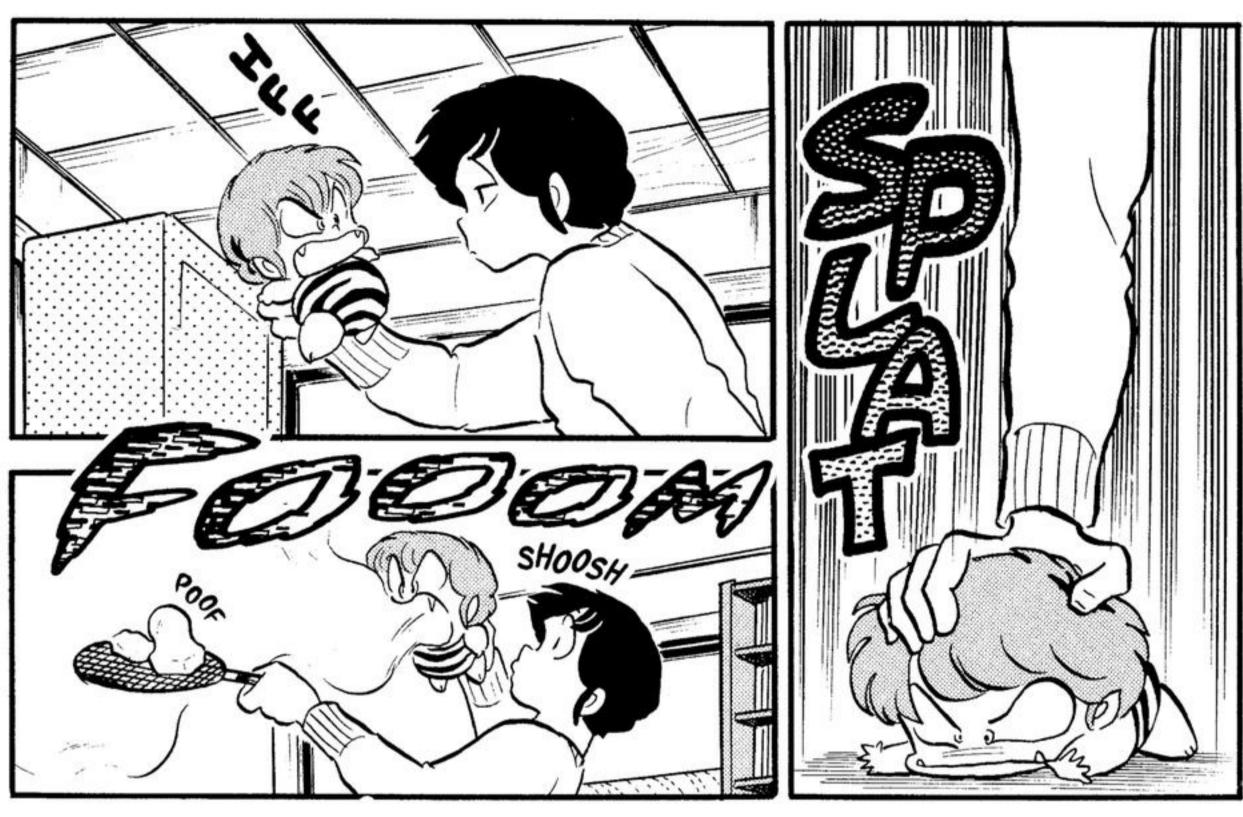


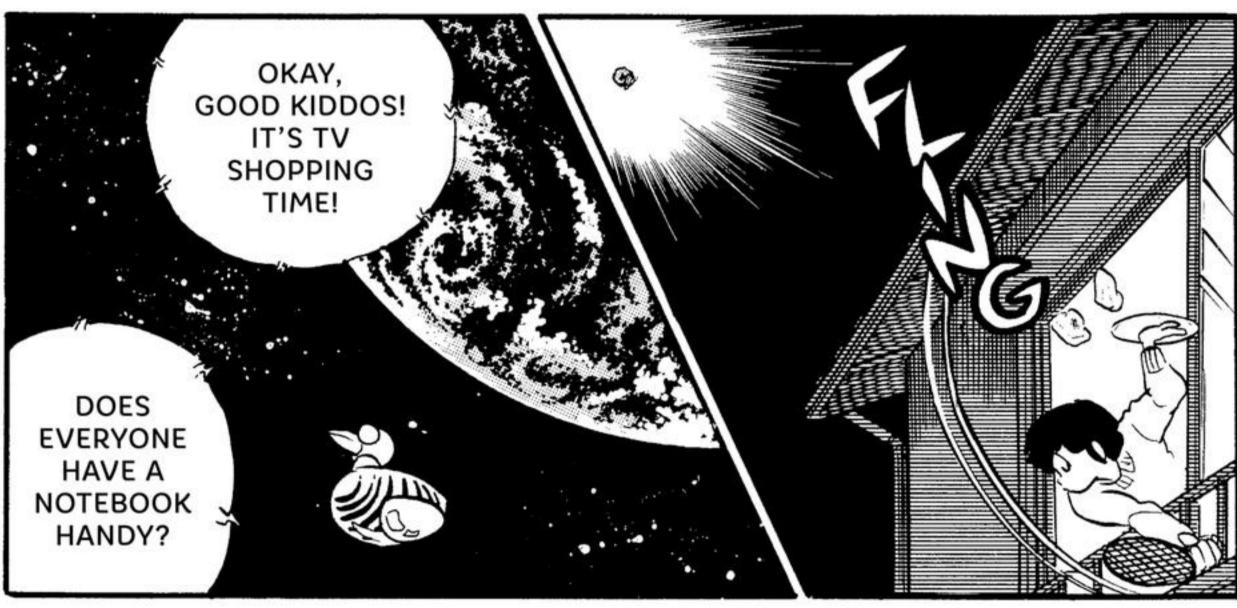




## CHAPTER 9: CHOMP-CHOMP, EVERYBODY!





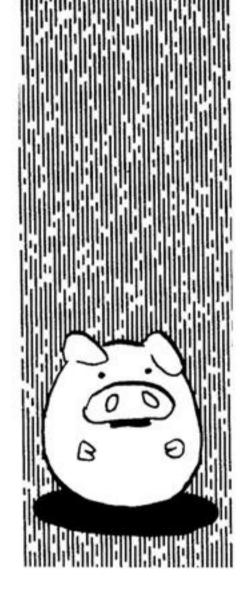










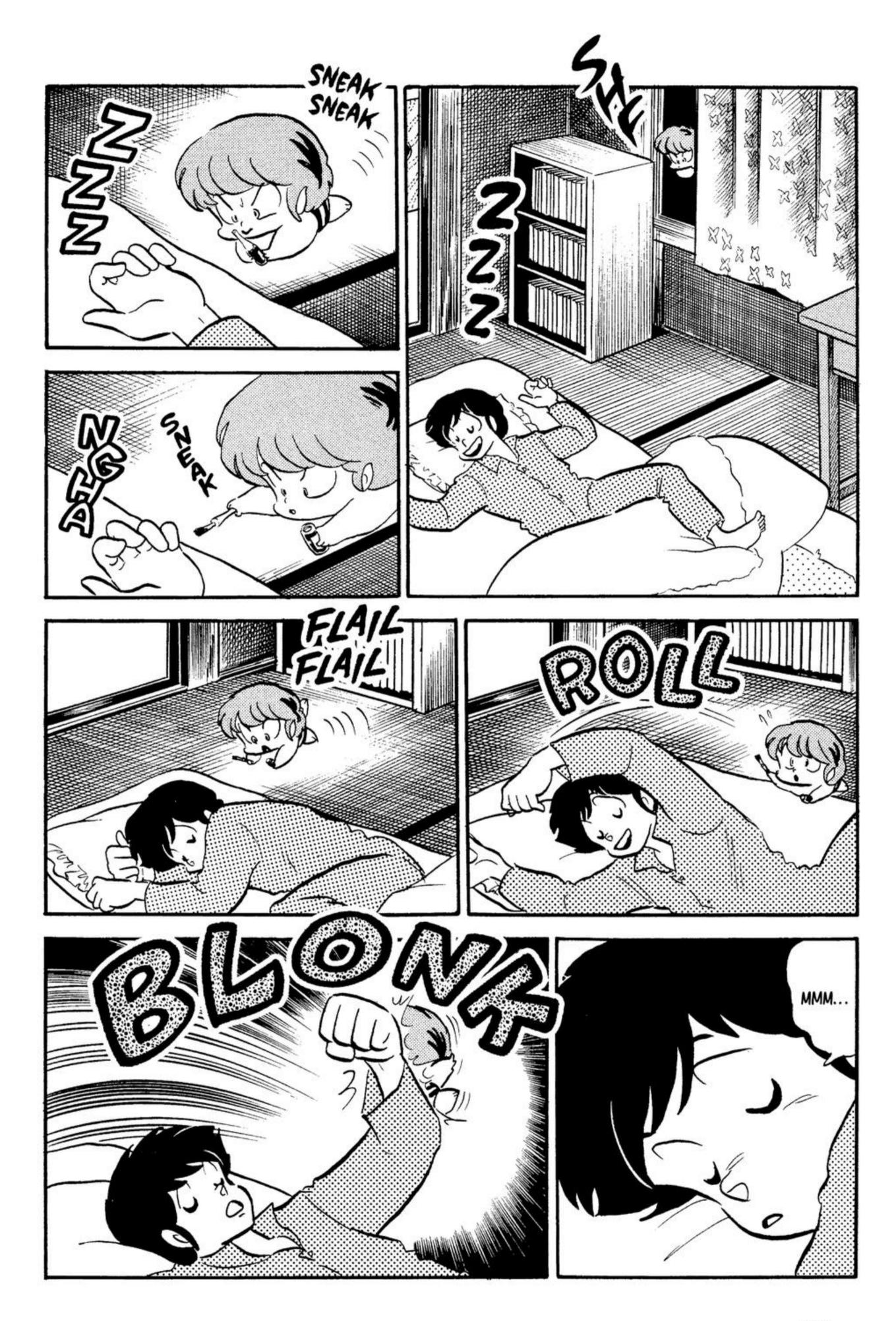






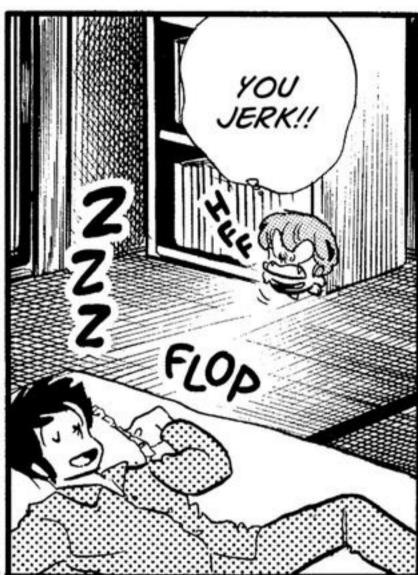


















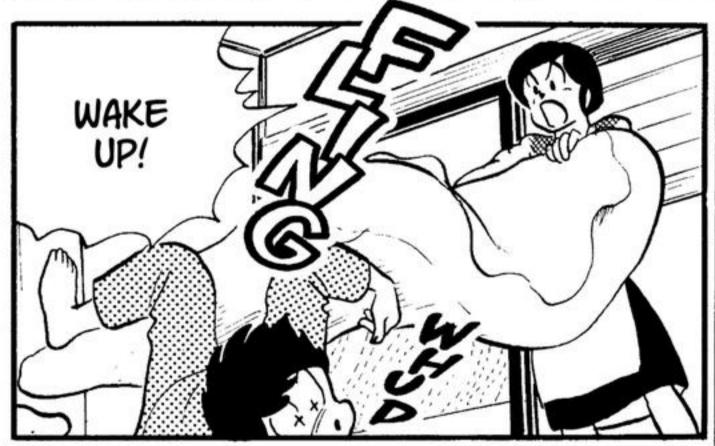










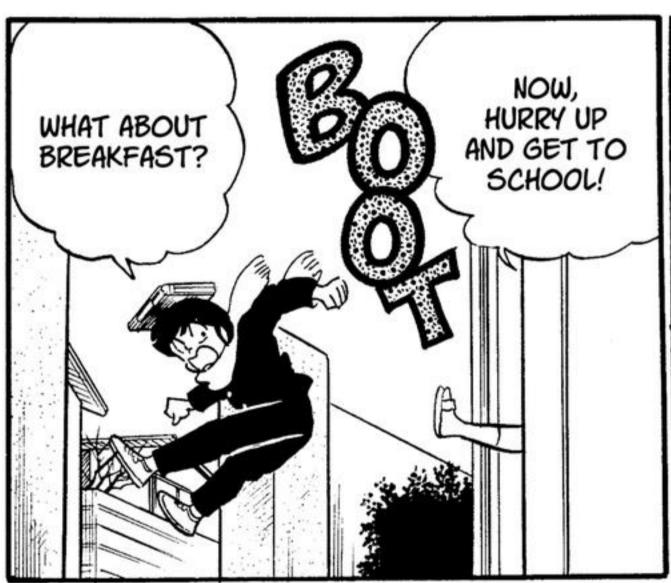








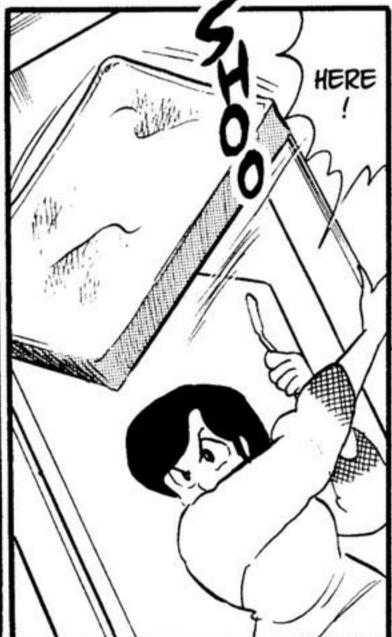


















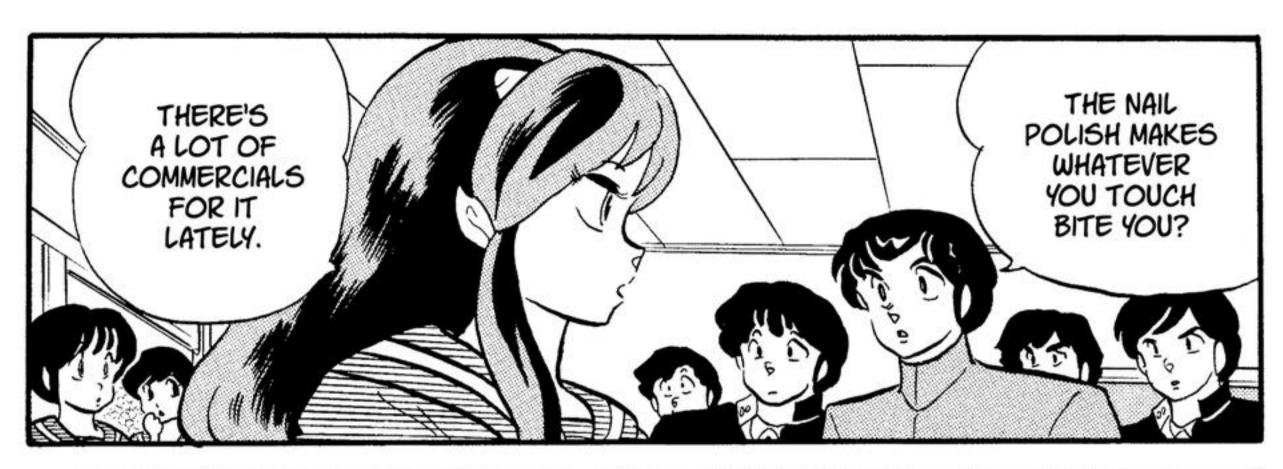


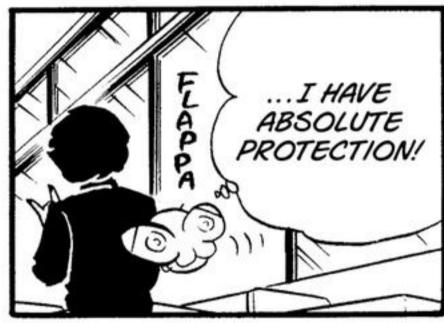




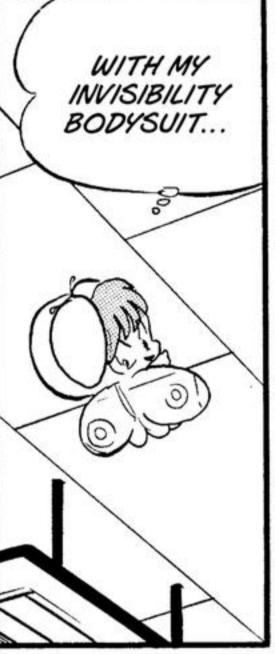






















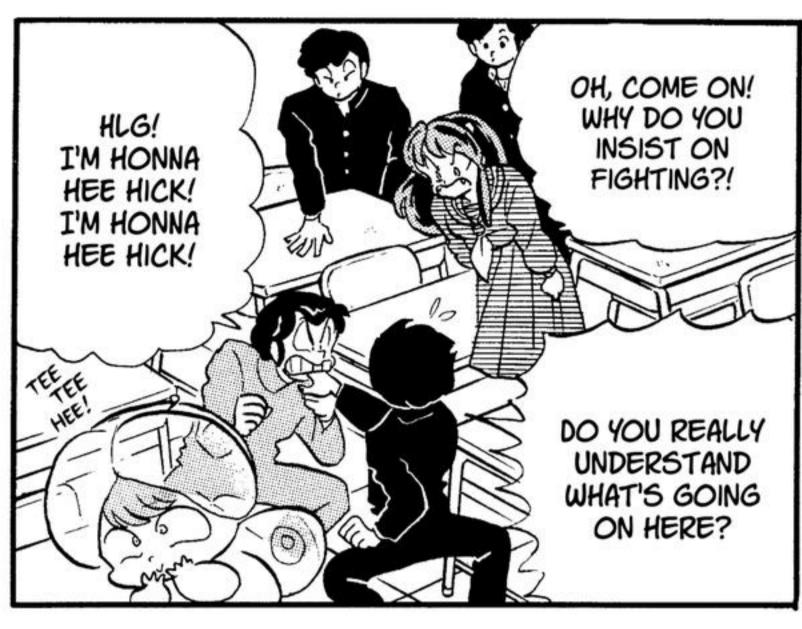






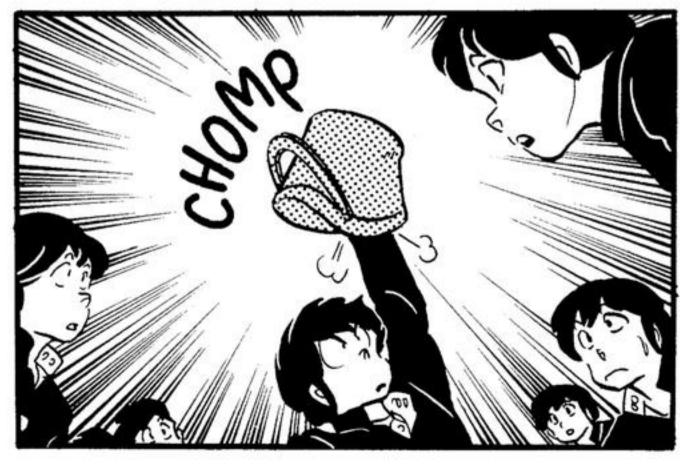


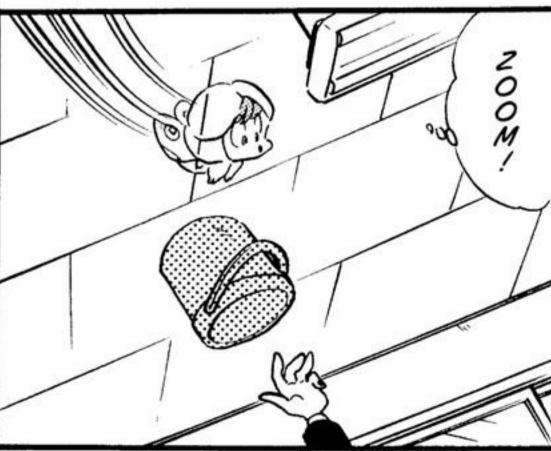


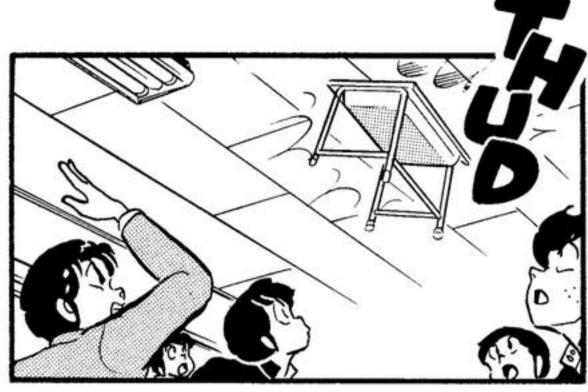






























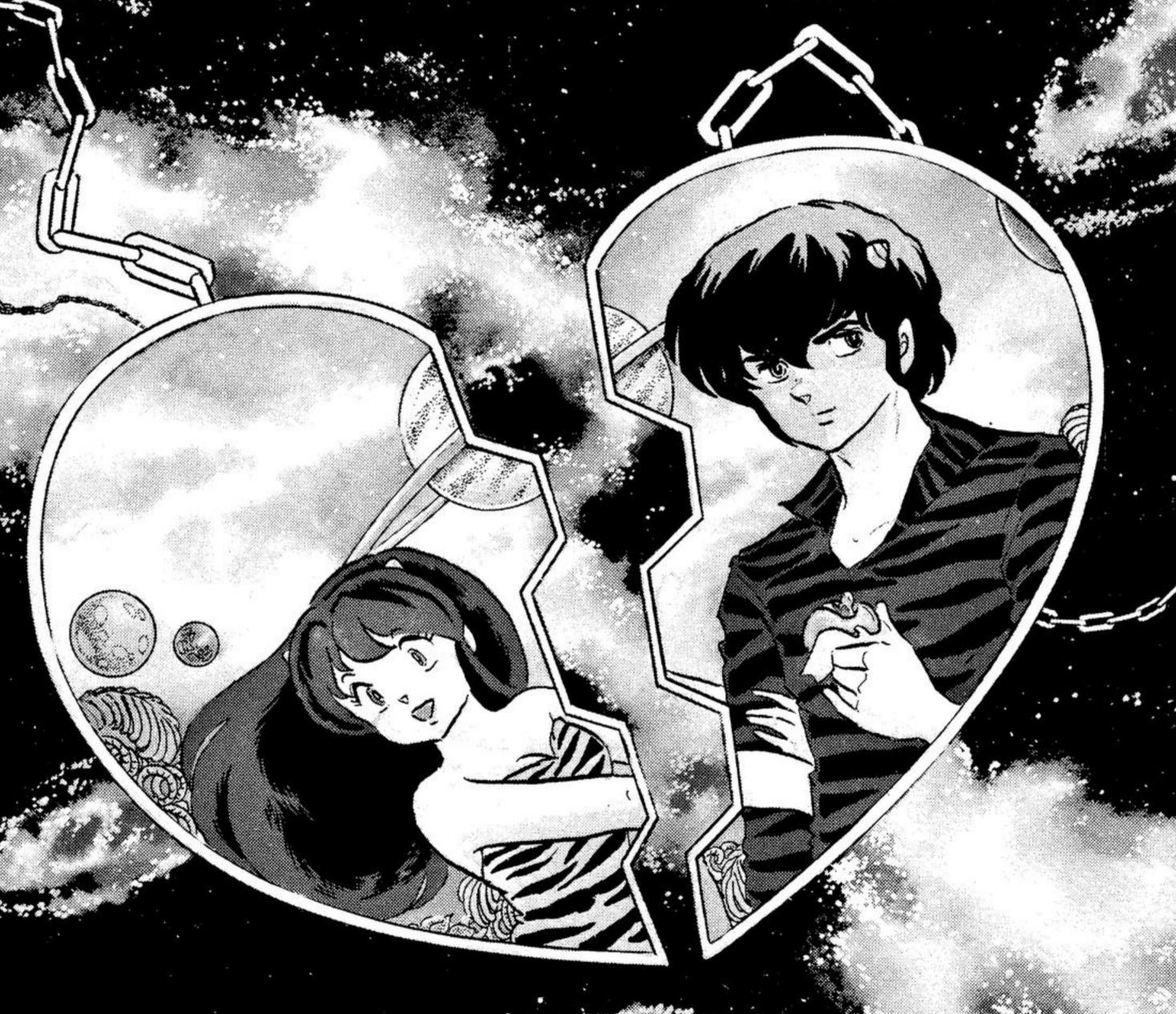






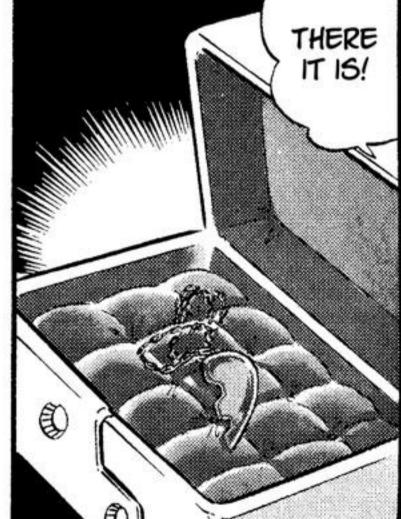


# CHAPTER 108 CHARTER 108 CROSSIN



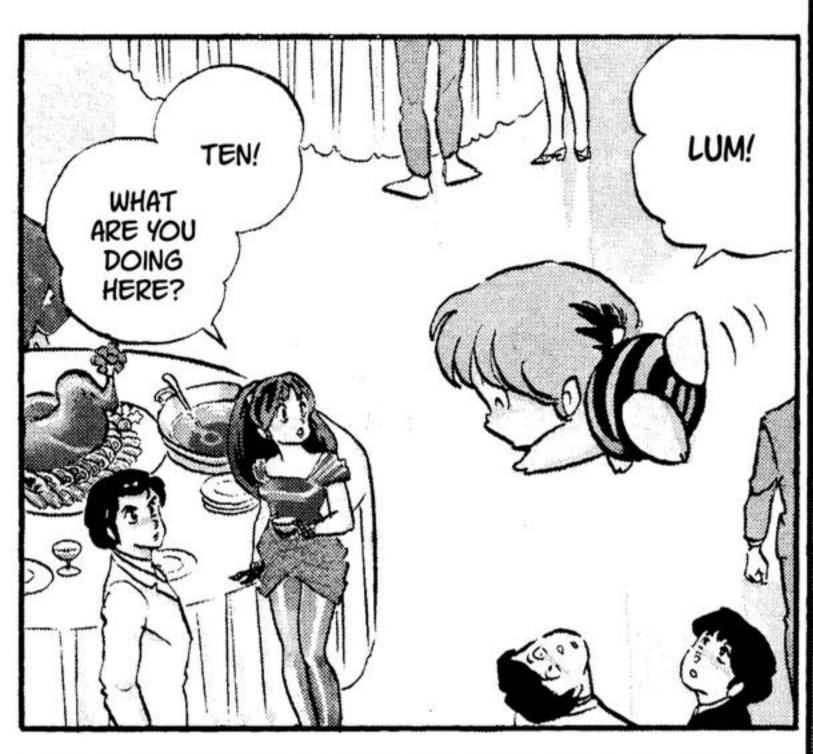


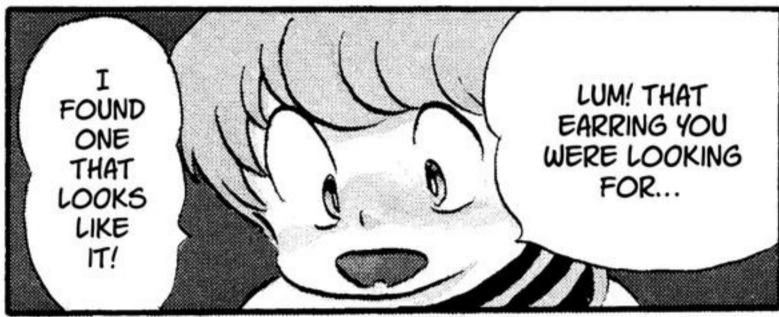








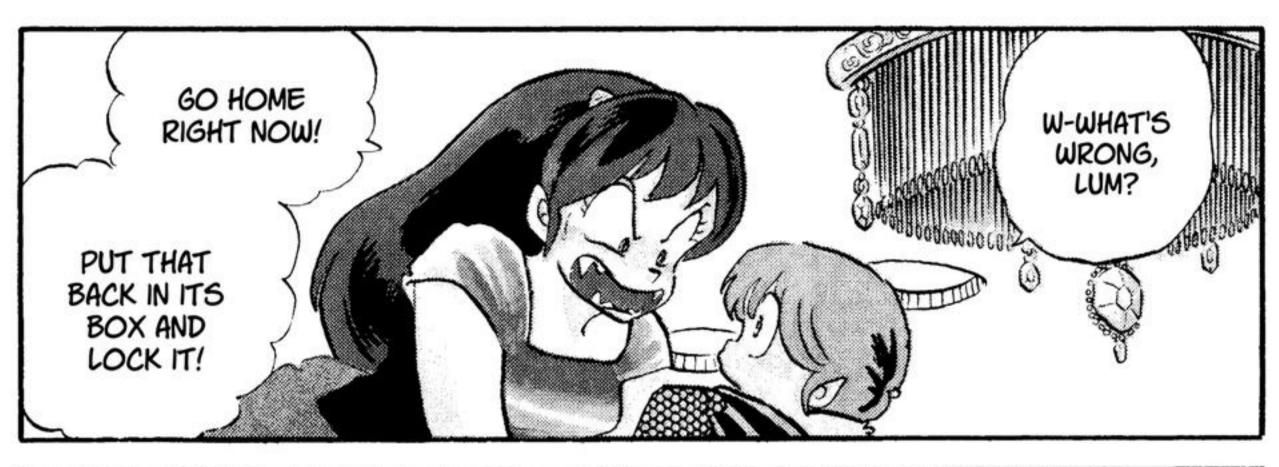


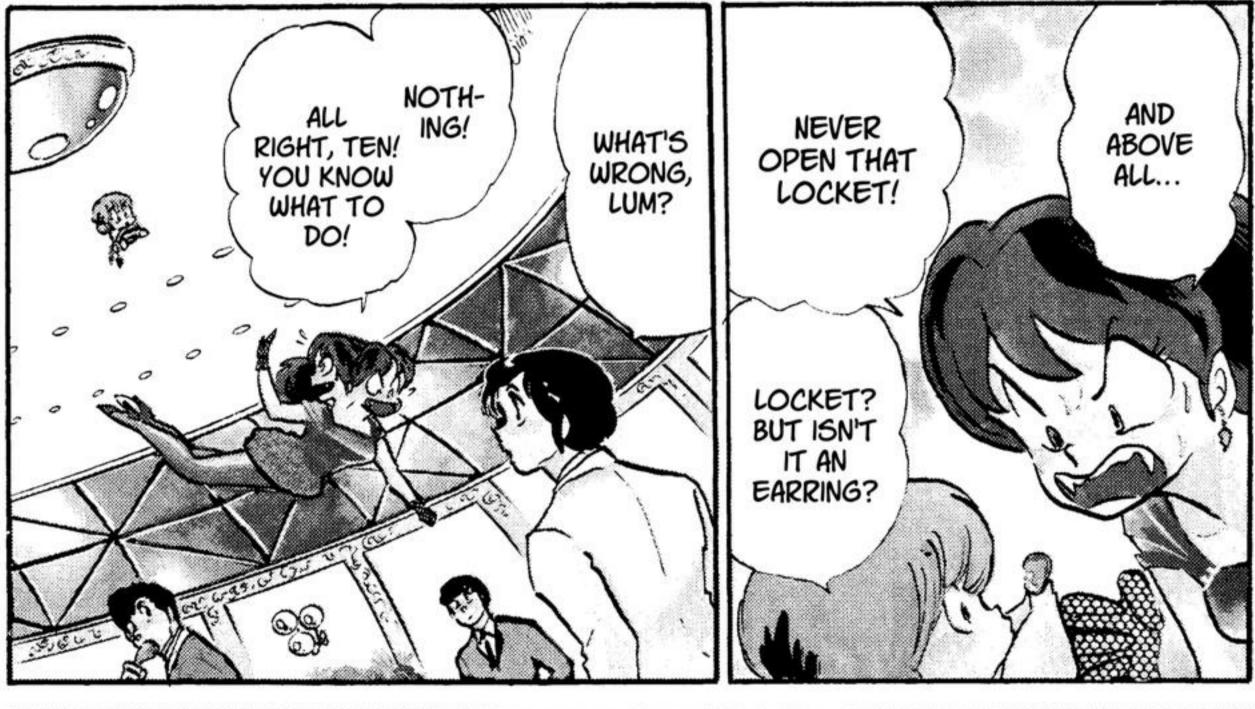


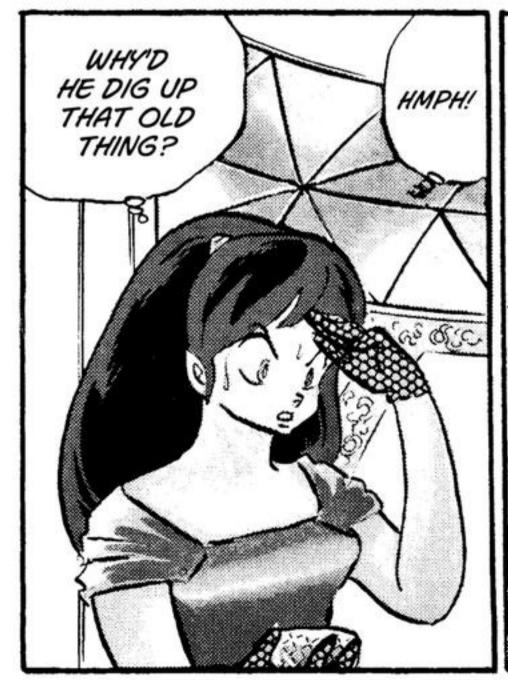
















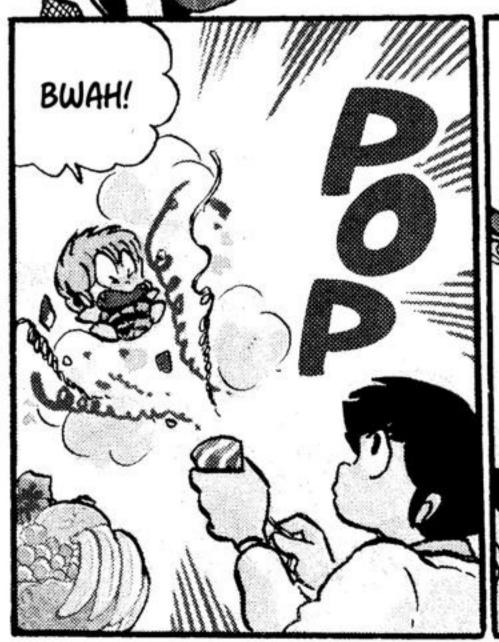








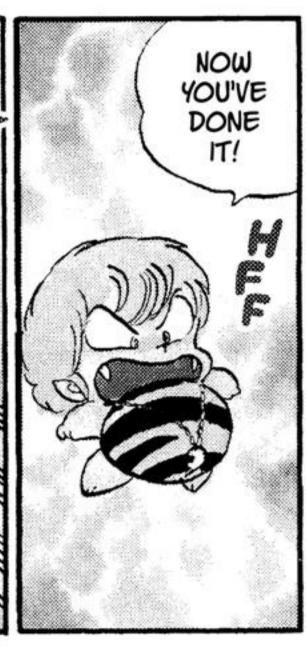




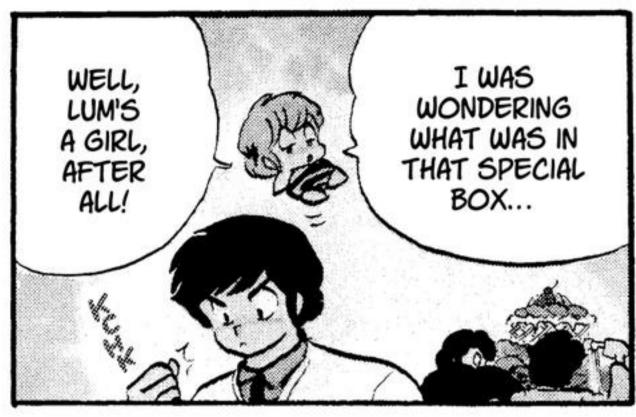


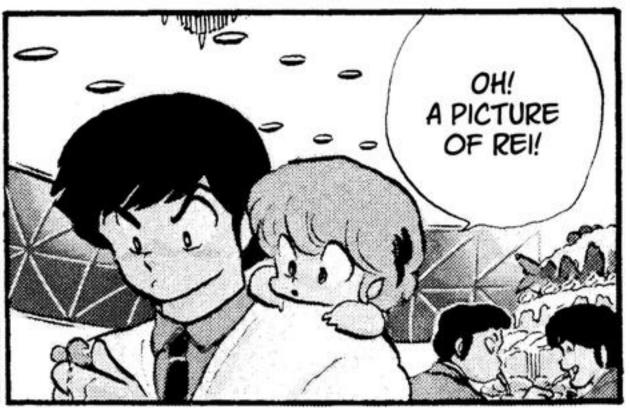








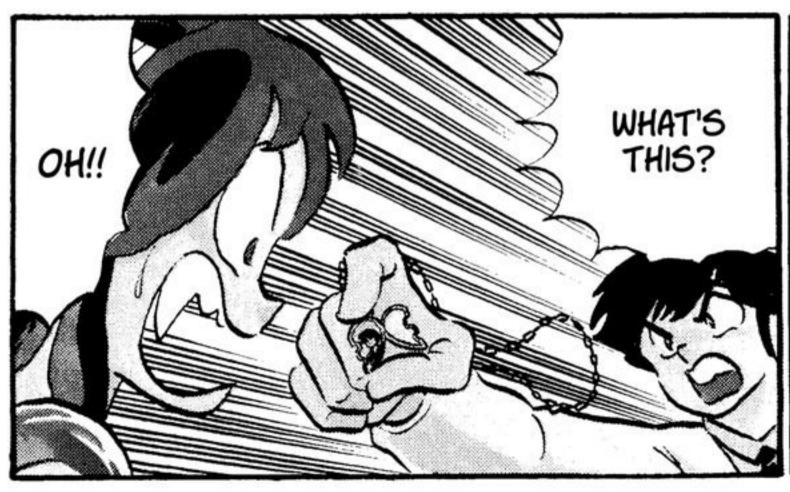






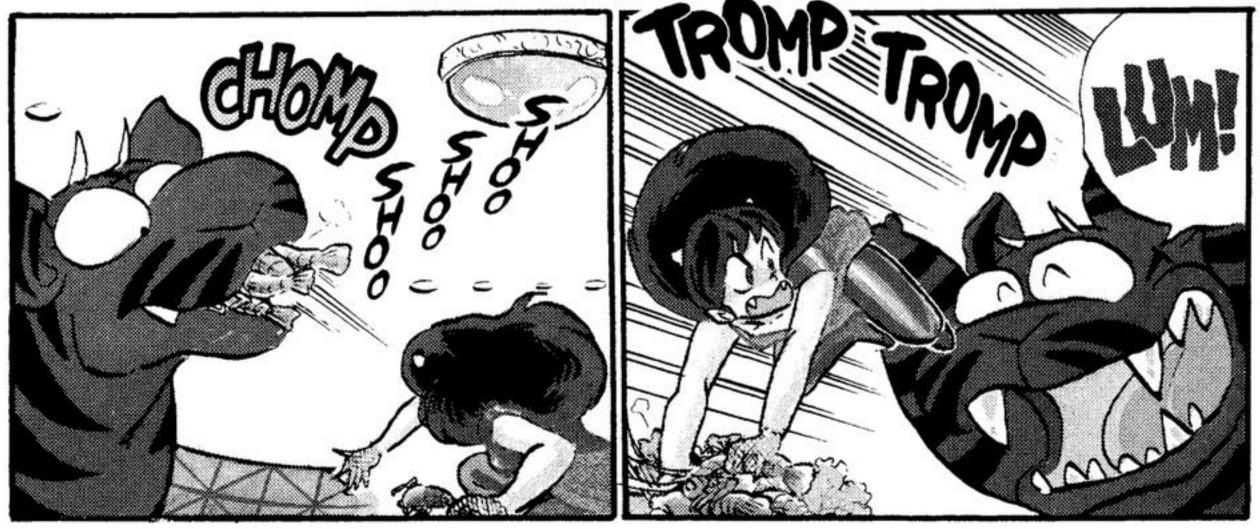










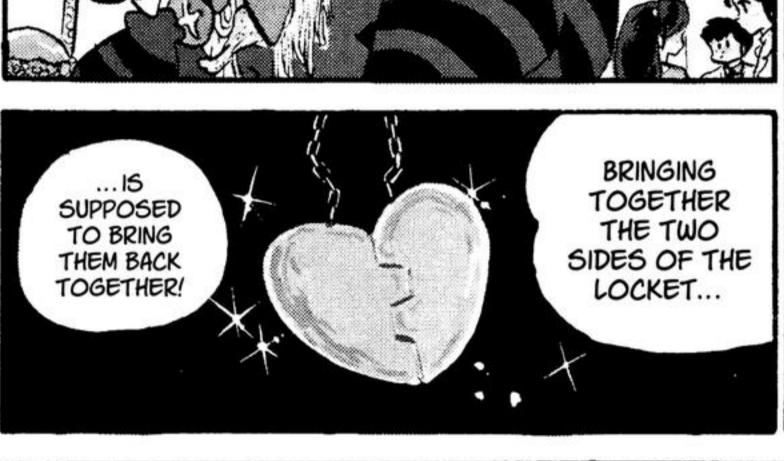


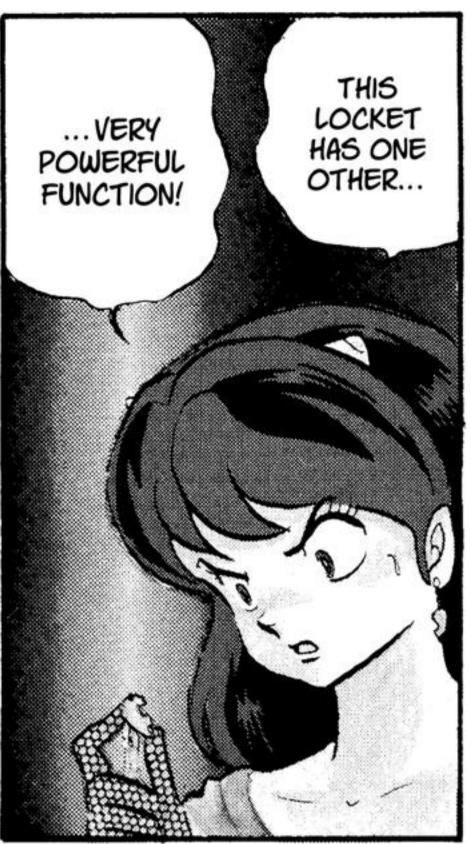




































### URUSEI YATSURA ★ DATA FILE 25



## An Un-Feline Cat?! Just Who Is Kotatsu Kitty?

In this edition, we conduct a thorough examination of Kotatsu Kitty and his carefree life of freedom and ease

in Tomobiki Town!

Long, long ago in the Edo period, an ordinary stray cat was denied access to a kotatsu on a cold winter day. He vowed fiercely that "When I die, I'll come back to haunt you!" predicating his reappearance in present-day Japan (volume 6, chapter 9 "There's a Cat on the Stairs!").

With strength and physical proportions that exceed those of an adult man, Kotatsu Kitty seems to bear little resemblance to his past incarnation as he strides through Tomobiki Town, giving off the pungent fragrance of tobacco...





■ The community seems to think Kotatsu Kitty lives at the Moroboshi house. (volume 13, chapter 4 "Love Hidden in the O-Den")

STUDY 2

Is he really a cat?! ②

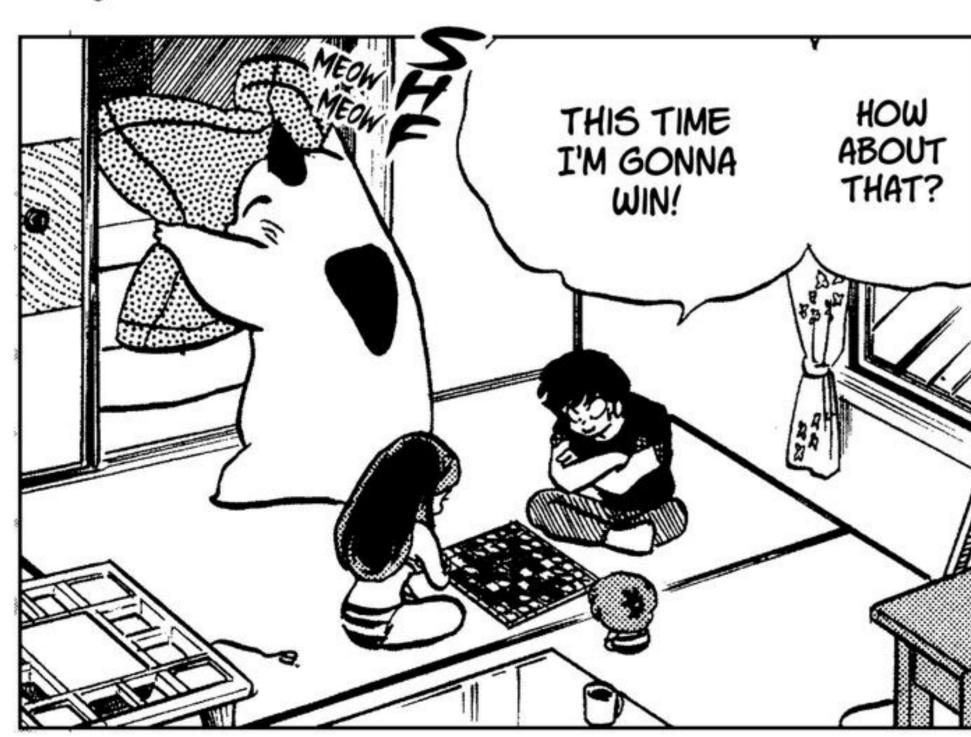
#### He Is a Community Cat, Kept by the Neighborhood

But on closer examination, Kotatsu Kity seems to have really made himself at home in Tomobiki Town.

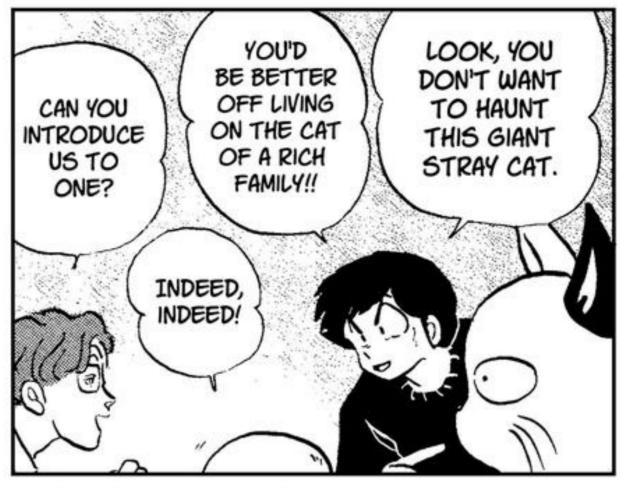
We see him working the register at the Tomobiki High School shop (volume 8, chapter 3 "Bloomer Bloopers") and playing go with the local barber (volume 15, chapter 5 "Magical Hat"). He seems to be surprisingly well-integrated in the community.

Kotatsu Kitty also seems to be allowed inside establishments that don't usually allow pets, such as restaurants. He is even seen enjoying o-den at a food cart with the principal (volume 14, chapter 8 "Ten Year Truth").

How can we call Kotatsu Kitty a mere stray when he is so well-loved? We can conclude that Kotatsu Kitty is a so-called community cat—not the pet of any one individual, but an animal who is cared for collectively by all of the cat lovers in the neighborhood.



■ Kotatsu Kitty seems right at home using the closet at Ataru's house... (volume 12, chapter 16 "Kotatsu Love")



▲ Ataru clearly doesn't consider Kotatsu Kitty to be his pet. (volume 15, chapter 21 "Invitation to Another Wolrd")



Kotatsu Kitty appears most frequently in three places: at the Moroboshi residence, Tomobiki High School, and the empty lot. He commonly shows up in Ataru's room at the Moroboshi house, but he's not a household pet (or should we say, resident?). Nobody goes looking for him if he fails to come home, and Ten clearly regards Kotastu Kitty as a friend, not as a pet (volume 15, chapter 5 "Magical Hat").

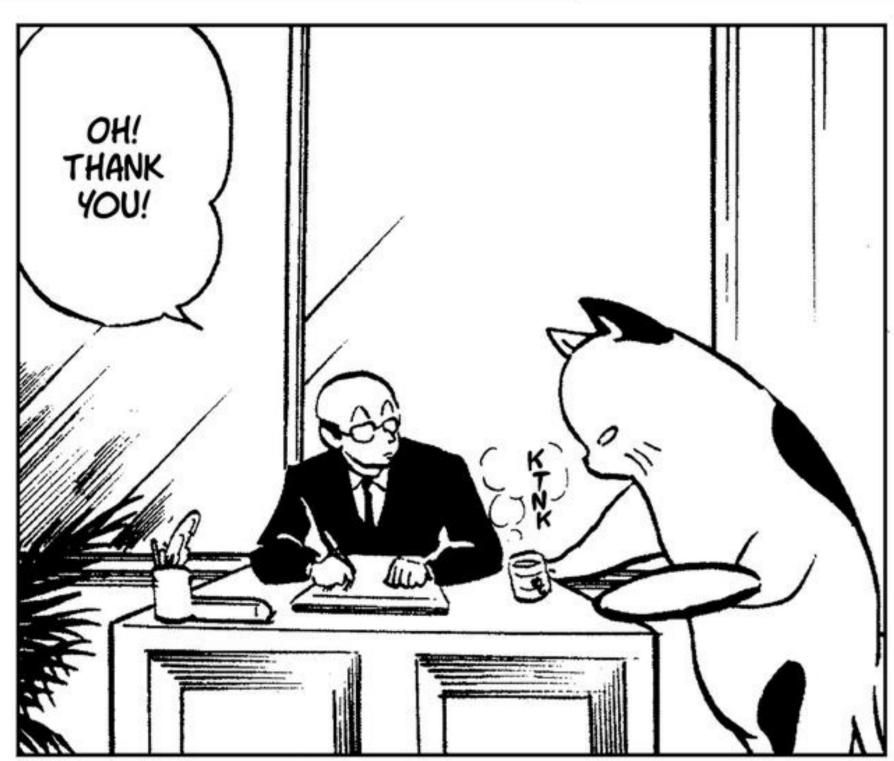
Kotatsu Kitty is most frequently seen with the principa at school, who comments, "He comes visiting sometimes!" (volume 6, chapter 16 "Alien Invasion").

After examining the evidence, we can safely conclude that Kotastu Kitty is nobody's pet. In other words, he's a stray.

In recent years, people who dislike cats have come to see strays as problematic. Is this the case in Tomobiki Town? Kotatsu Kitty is a solitary cat and doesn't keep company with other felines, his gargantuan size can be intimidating, and he frequently commits the social crime of smoking while walking. We worry that these qualities might earn him enemies.

Moreover, Cherry also hangs out in the empty lot Kotatsu Kitty frequents, and sometimes shares his hot pot dinners with our feline friend (volume 12, chapter 14 "The Great Escape and Hullabaloo"). The neighbors might see this as encouraging strays and get upset...





▲This greatest cat lover of Tomobiki Town! (volume 13, chapter 14 "Woman Vs. Woman Showdown, Part 2")

Like any cat, Kotatsu Kitty appears to be off in his own world. But he is actually always ready to spring into action at a moment's notice. This is because cats are predators.

Kotatsu Kitty also exhibits a cunning mind when he uses Ataru as a guinea pig to test the taiyaki Cherry gives him for poison (volume 9, chapter 13 "Mysterious Ego Death Potion"). That kind of wariness is the mark of a stray cat, not a pet.

Thus, even reincarnated as a ghost cat, Kotatsu Kitty still possesses feline cleverness, caution, and cuteness. They say that cats can instinctively identify cat lovers, and we are certain that feral cats on the prowl meow and rub up against the legs of the principal, who Kotatsu Kitty so adores!





STUDY 3

Is he really a cat?! ③

He Is Actually a Very Feline Cat!

Kotatsu Kitty is a ghost feline with some very uncatlike behaviors, such as playing go and eating oden. But if you look closely, Kotatsu Kitty's habits are actually extremely feline.

His love of kotatsu and the fact that he never leaves his territory of Tomobiki Town are both very feline qualities.

When Mendo suddenly brandishes his sword, Kotatsu Kitty immediately claps it between his paws (volume 13, chapter 6 "In Case of a Cold"). Those lightning-fast reflexes parallel a cat's ability to always lands on its feet, no matter what height it falls from.



▲ Still, he sometimes elicits frowns. (volume 14, chapter 22 "The Girl in the Photograph")

#### **Urusei Yatsura: 366 Stories in All!**

#### The Deluxe Bait 'n' Switch!

The Mendos are tremendously wealthy, so one might expect them to serve sumptuous spreads at their events. But when we attempted to tally up the feasts, we came up short. We only found clear evidence of the guests enjoying refreshments at four out of nine parties hosted by the Mendos!

We counted them up!

The Mendo
Family Provides
Refreshments

Still, the parties hosted by the Mendos' appear quite lavish. This seems mostly due to clever little tricks. There is a banquet at Ryoko's Christmas party, but the guests all get scattered in the sky without making it to the table (volume 8, chapter 17 "The Wild Christmas Tree Party!"). At the New Year's party hosted by Mendo, the winner of the penmanship contest is promised a year's worth of fine dining at a luxury hotel, but in the end no one manages to win (volume 15, chapter 13 "I Know Your Secret").

#### They Spend on Ambiance, Not Food

What cheapskates! It turns out that the Mendo family's parties merely appear lavish! On the other hand, they seem to spend plenty on the party set up, including a giant 57-meter-tall Christmas tree, and a party venue baked inside of an enormous Christmas cake.

On the occasions when meals are served, the menu reflects questionable taste. For example, turkey appears alongside shredded dried squid, to the confusion of the guests. We get the impression the Mendos don't know how to use their money correctly...



▲ The feast was presented at the top of the tree... (volume 8, chapter 17 "The Wild Christmas Tree Party!")

Ryoko invites all of class 2-4 to a party (volume 12, chapter 10 "Battle: A Mendo Family Fireworks Event"), only three guests make it to the food: Lum, Ataru, and Shinobu.

Number of parties hosted by the Mendos

Number of times food is provided at the party ......four

#### **Food Served**

Turkey, champagne, shredded dried squid, a giant Christmas cake, meat, etc. (volume 11, chapter 1 "Secret Spot! Palatial Cake of Horrors"), lunches in tiered food boxes (volume 11, chapter 16 "A Day in the Life of Kin the Playboy"), watermelon and plum wine (volume 12, chapter 10 "Battle: A Mendo Family Fireworks Event"), meat, etc. (volume 13, chapter 10 "Heartbreak Crossin': Part 1")

Author: Kyoko Sugimori Concept: Masatake Sugimori



#### Part 25 Notes

The setting of *Urusei Yatsura* is in Japan, with references to history, cultural holidays, beliefs and practices. Check out the notes below to enrich your reading experience.

Page 42, panel 2 – Sensei is an honorific title used to address teachers as well as professionals such as doctors, lawyers, and artists.

Page 104, panel 4 - Happi coats are a traditional Japanese outerwear most often worn during festivals.

Page 105, panel 3 – Pounding mochi is a traditional New Year's group activity. Called *mochitsuki* in Japanese, steamed glutinous rice is pounded with giant mallets until it reaches the right mochi consistency.

Page 118, panel 3 - Oshiruko is a sweet red bean soup served with mochi. It's considered very warming and good to eat on cold winter days.

Page 120, panel 2 – In the original Japanese, Ataru uses the term *butsumetsu* (the day of the Buddha's death) to refer to an "unlucky day."

Page 123, panel 3 - A striker is a heavy wooden beam suspended by ropes perpendicular to the bell.

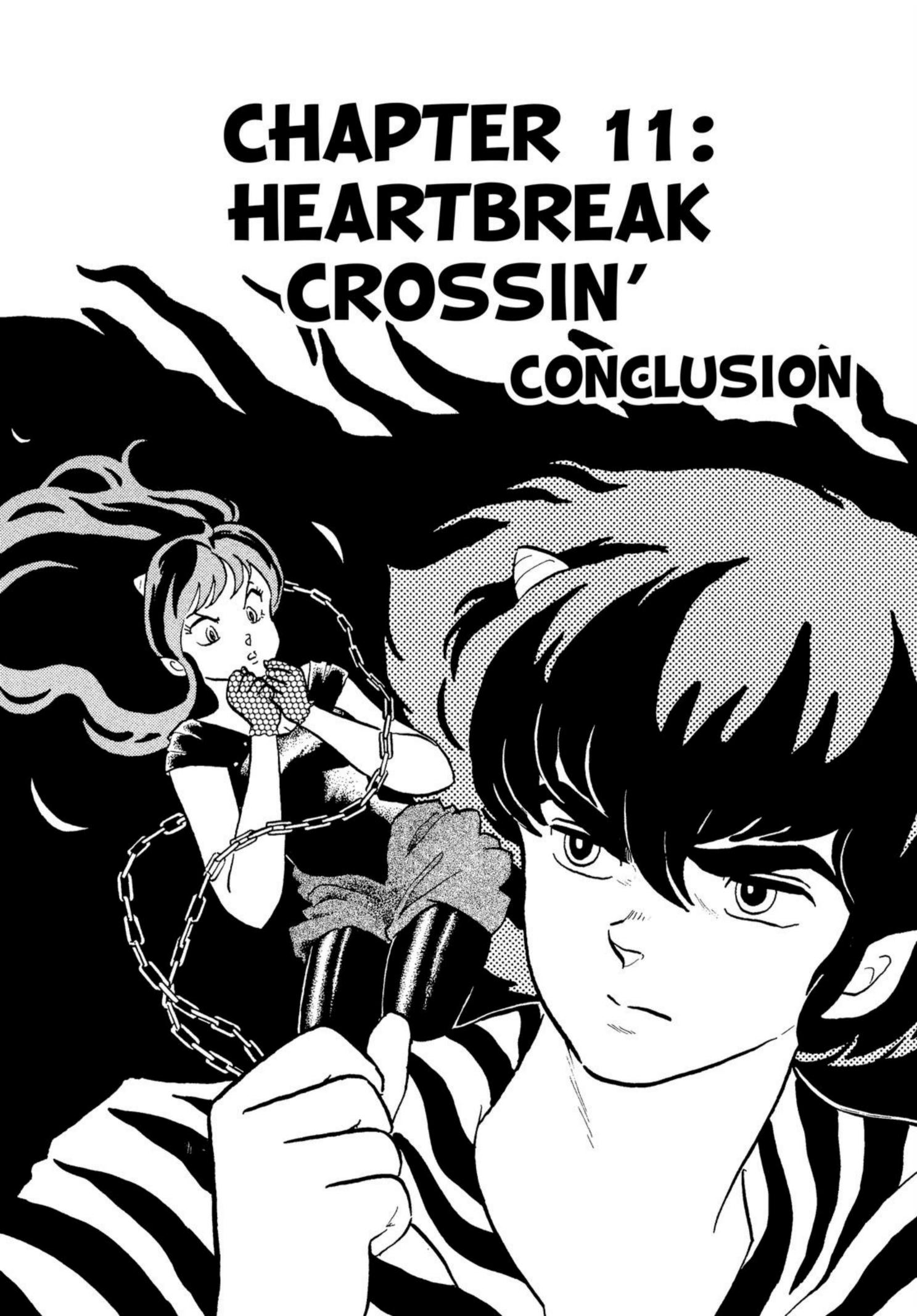
# Urusei Yatsura

Part 26



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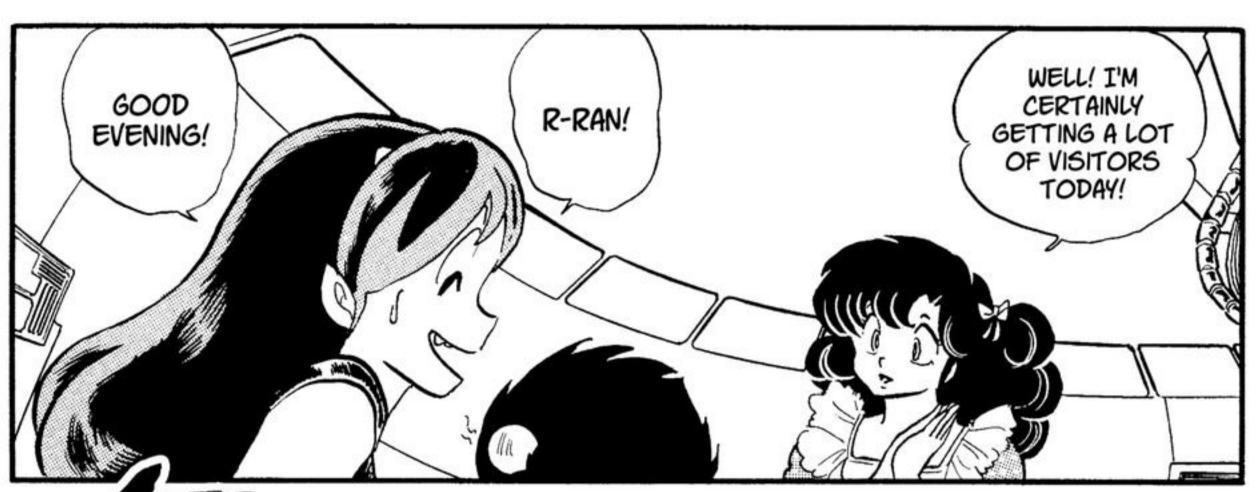


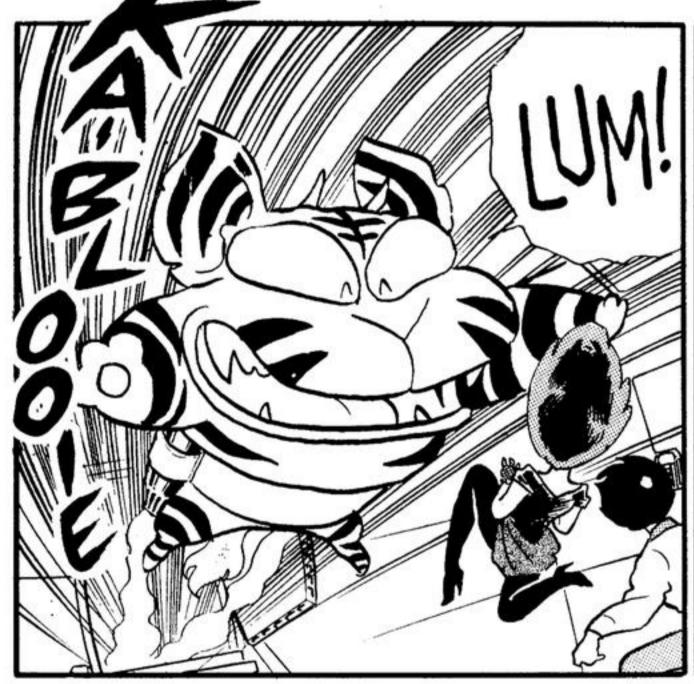




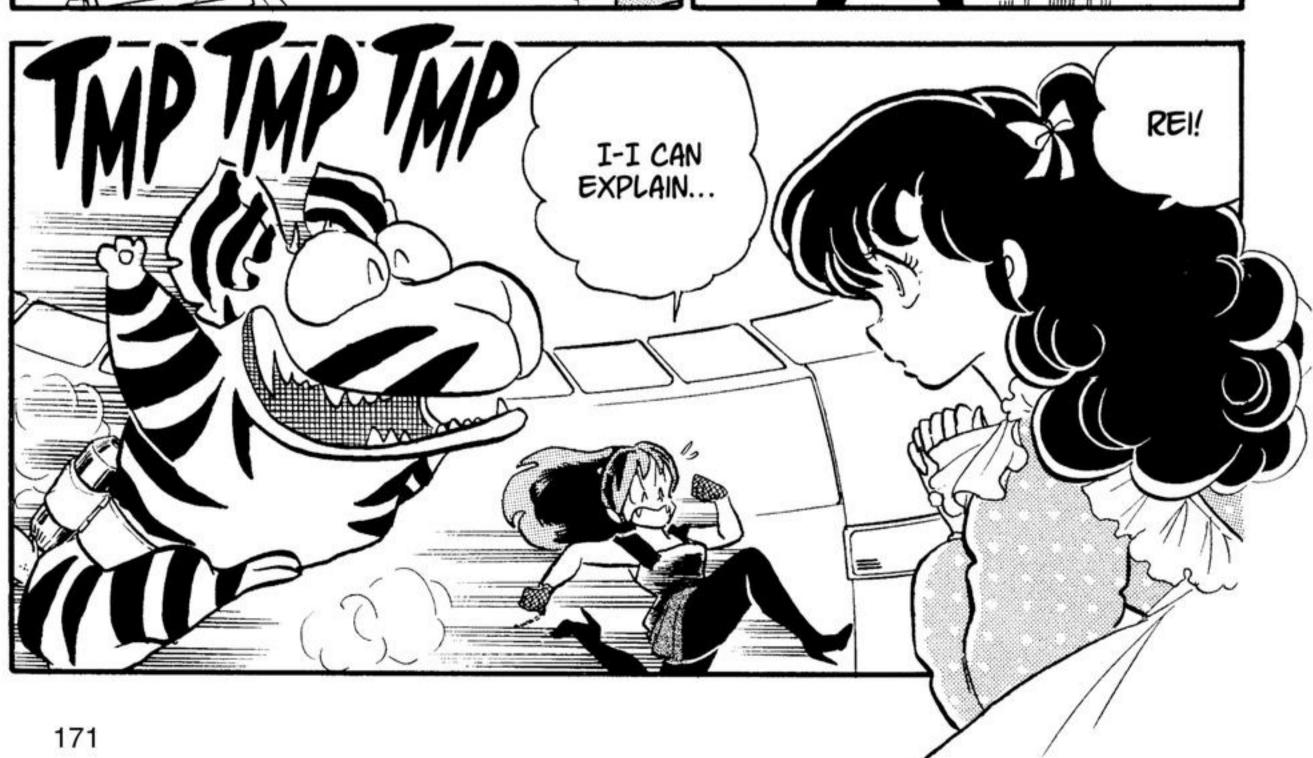












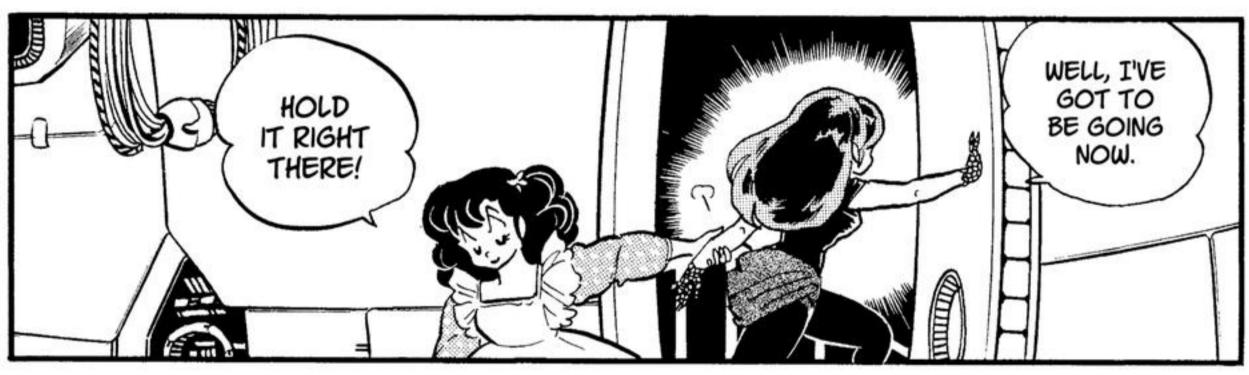








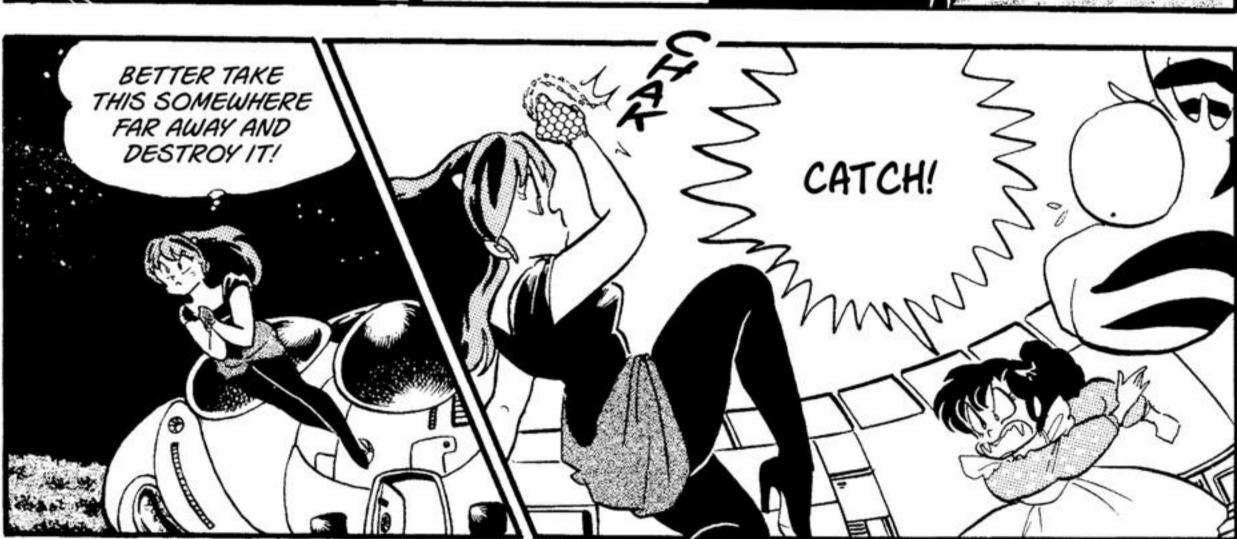


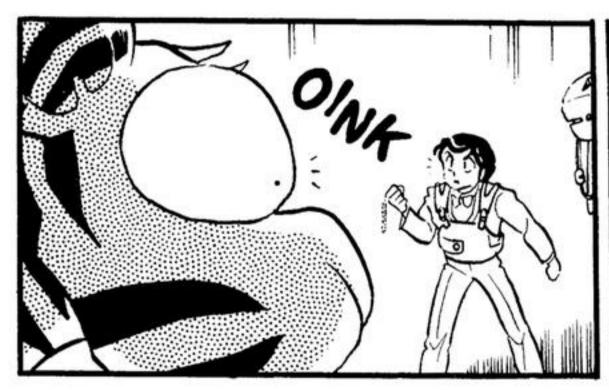






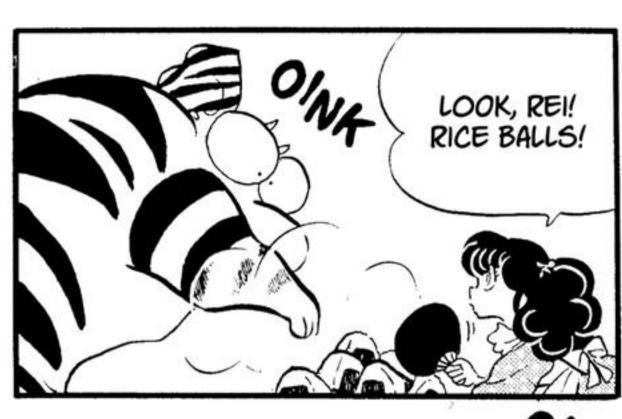














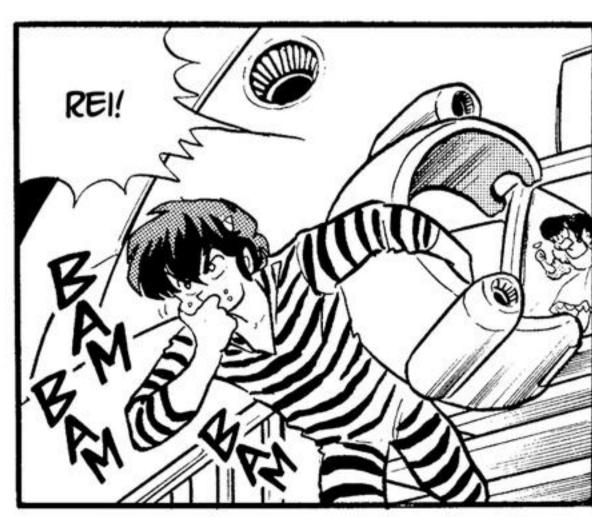


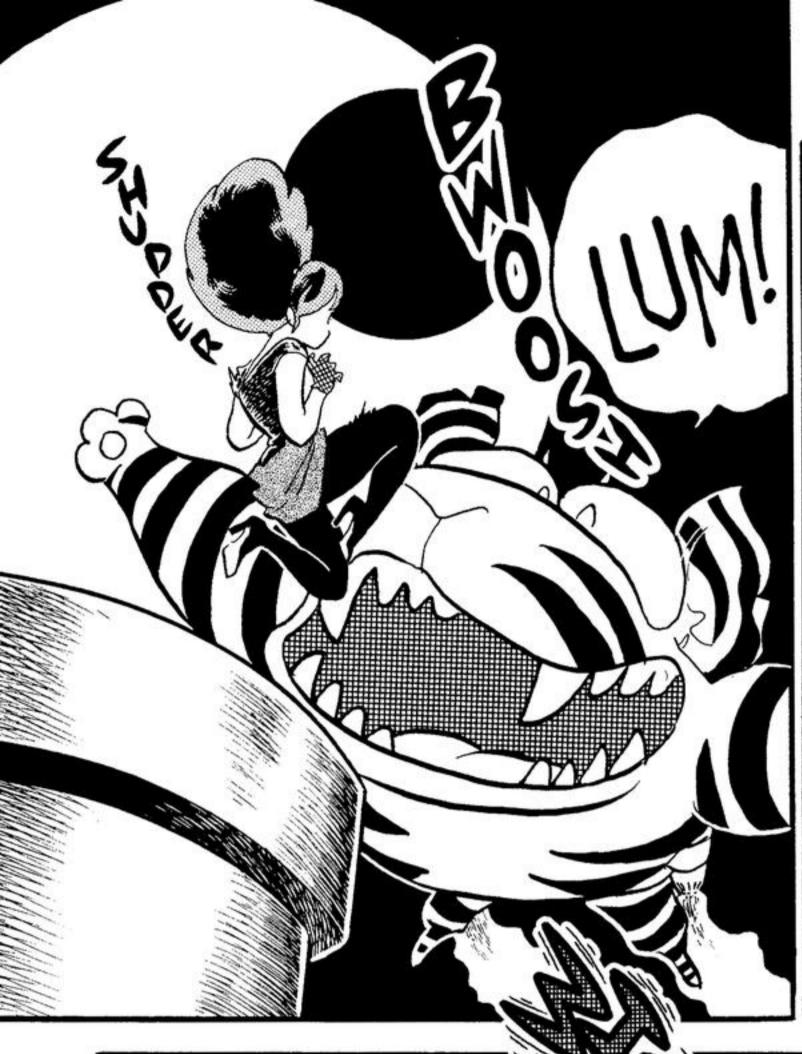






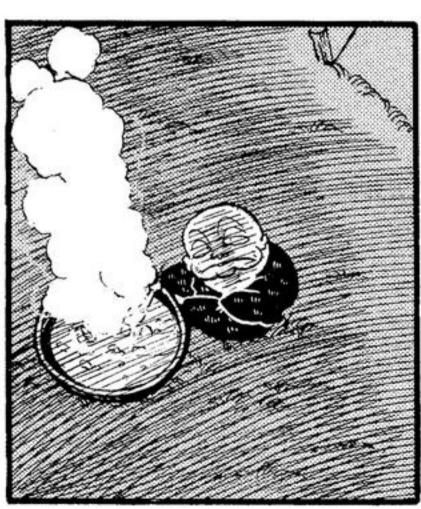


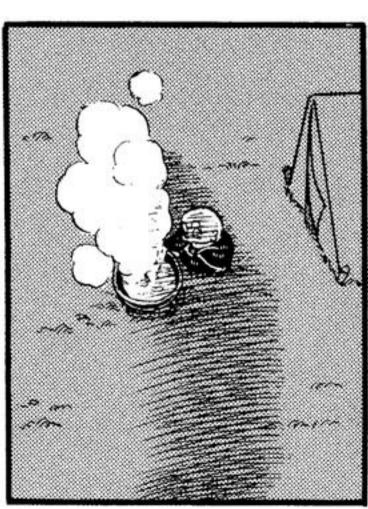




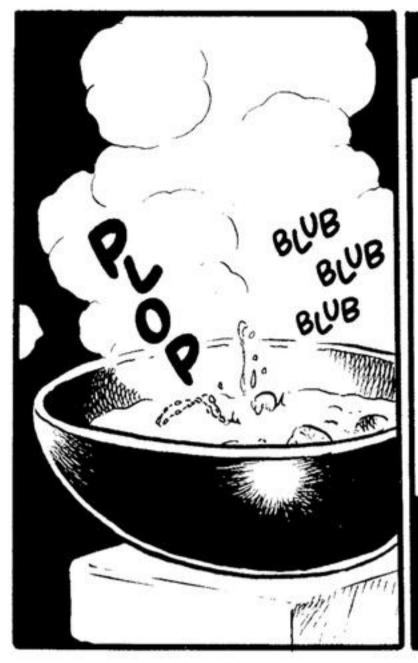






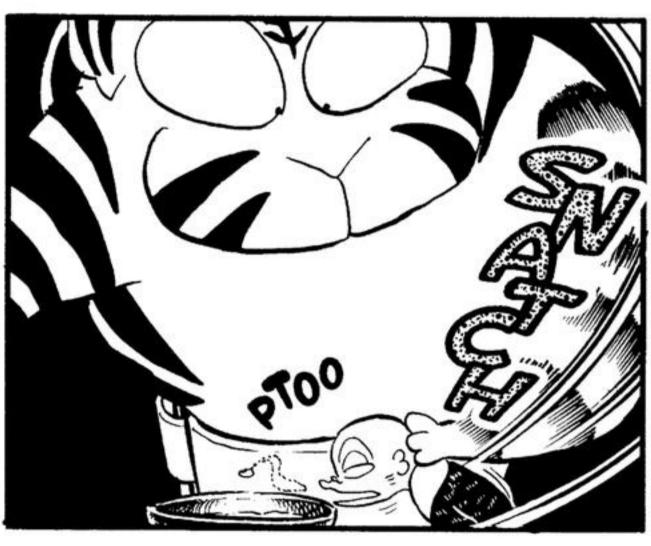






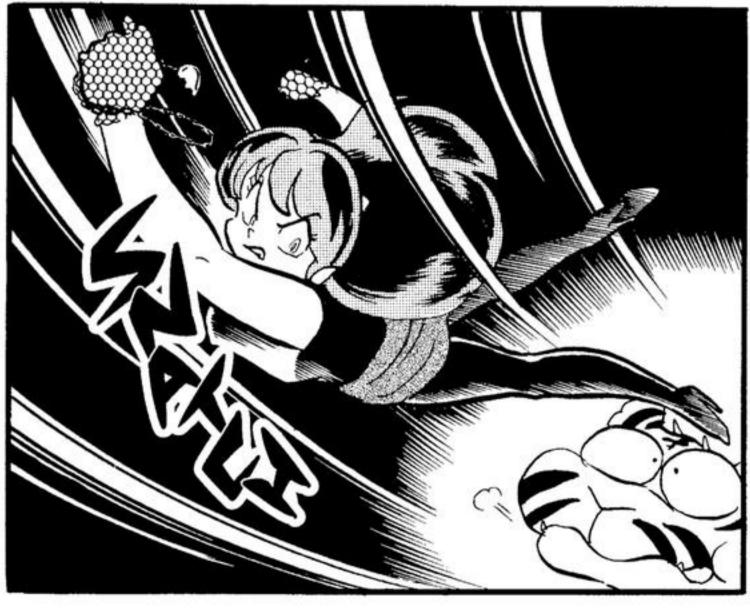














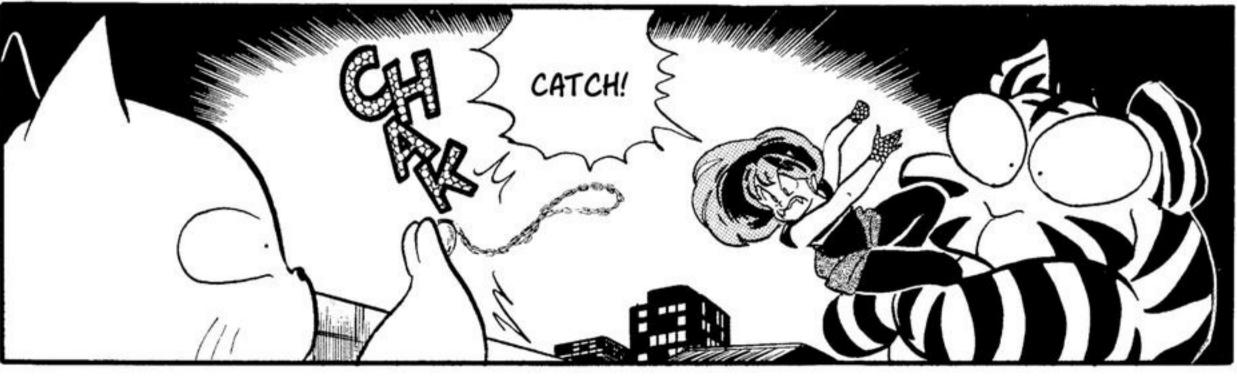








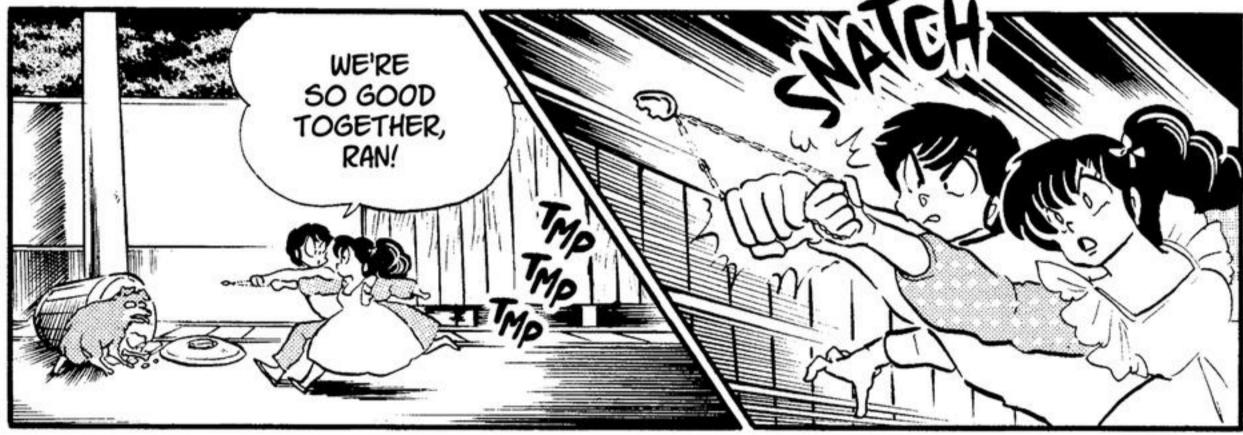


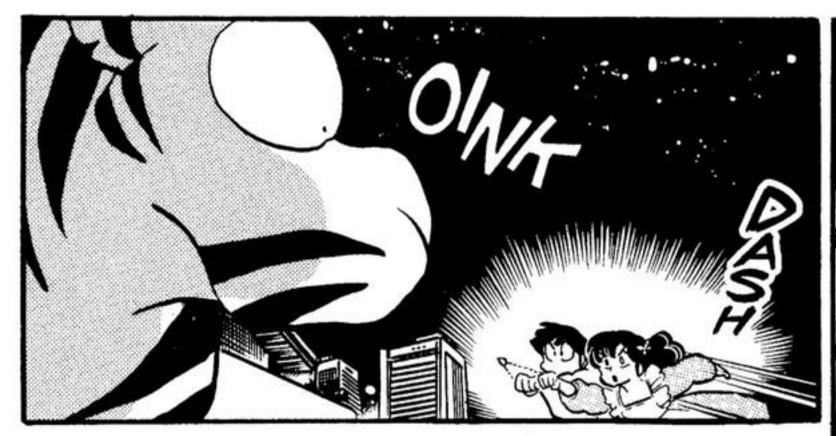


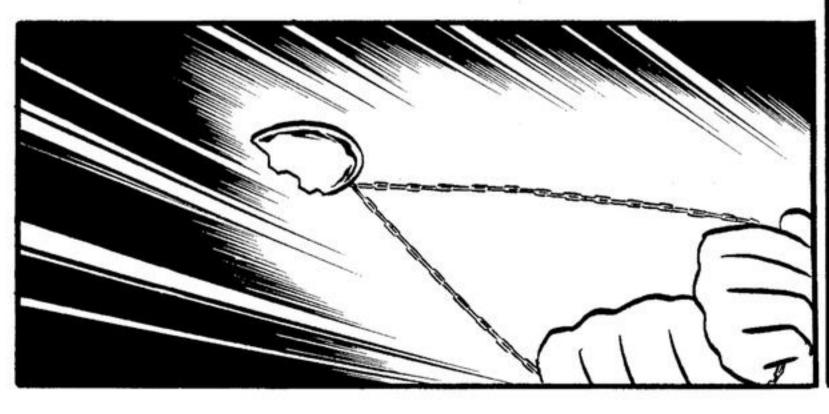






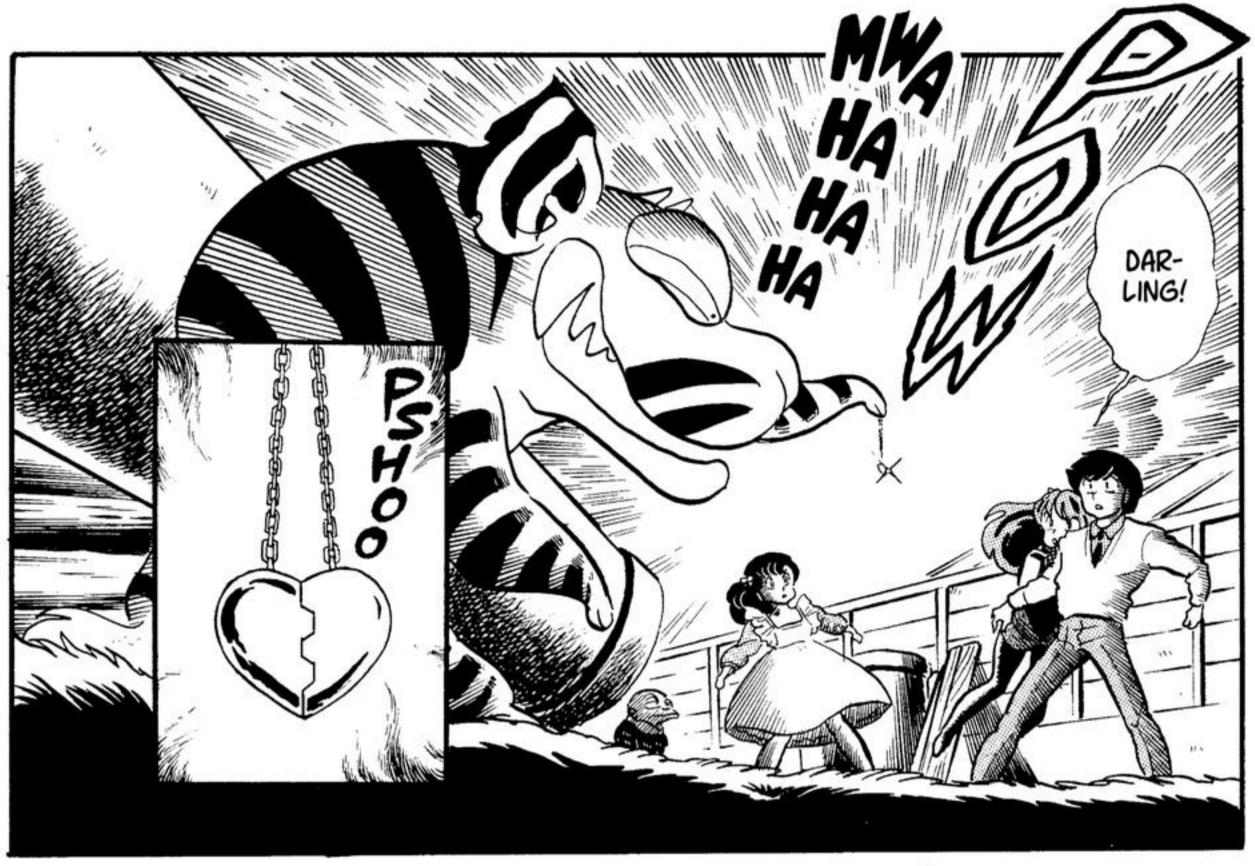


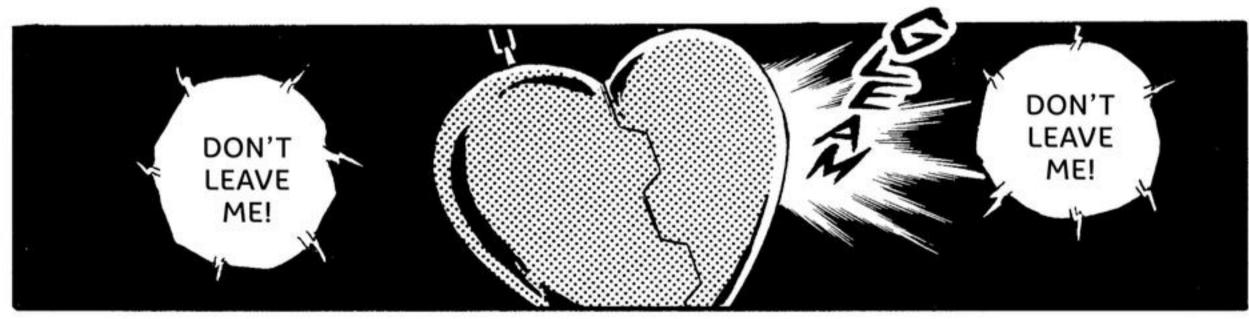












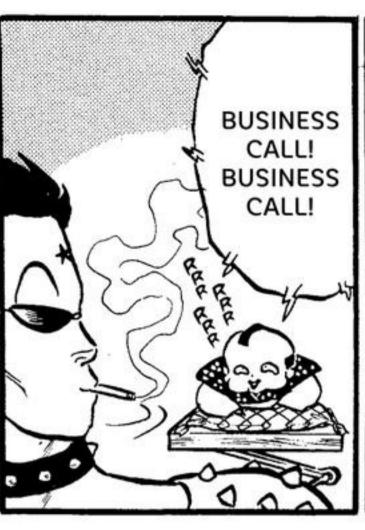


## CHAPTER 12: THE SETSUBUN BEAN CRISIS







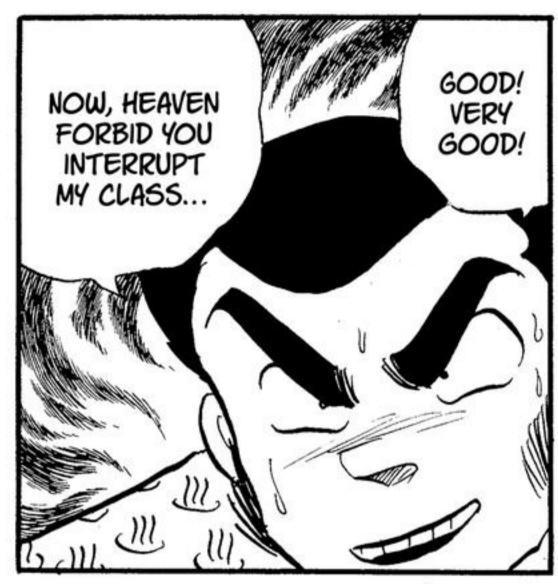


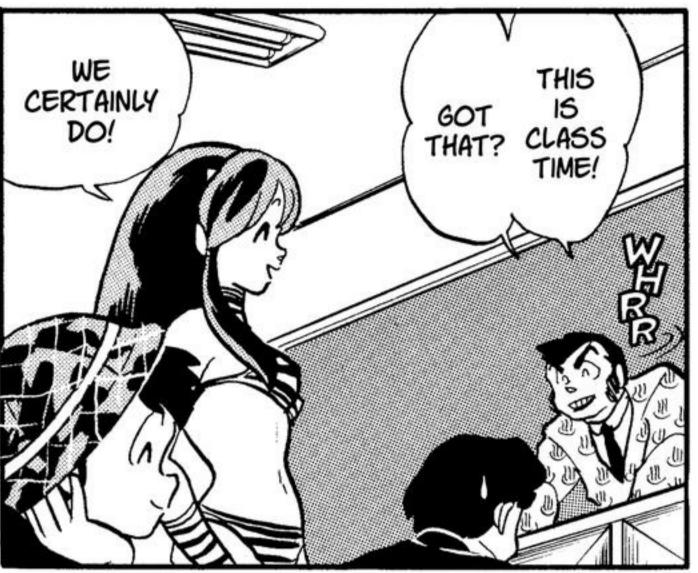


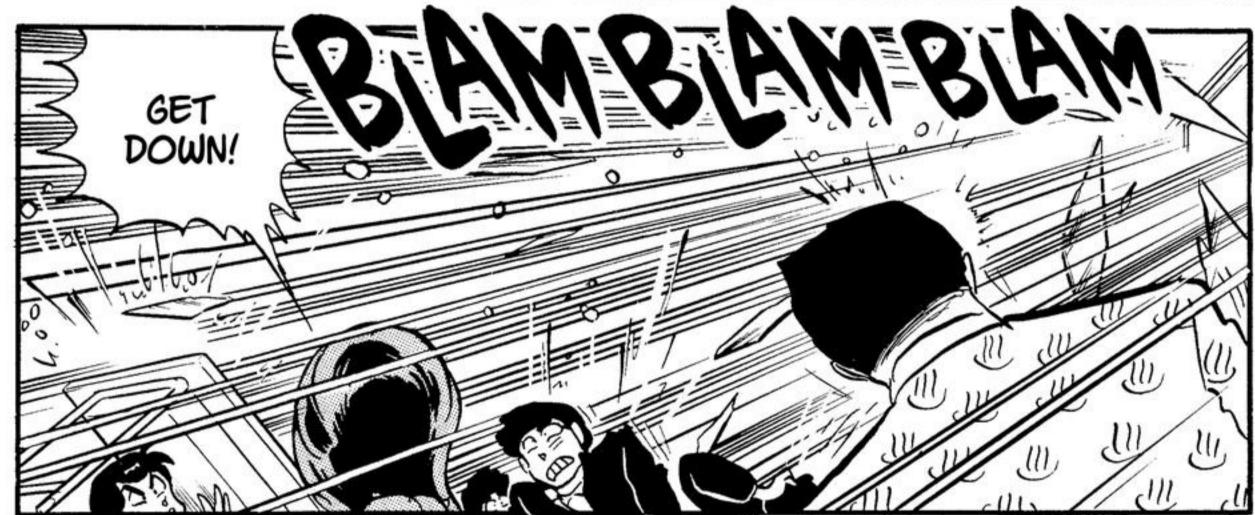


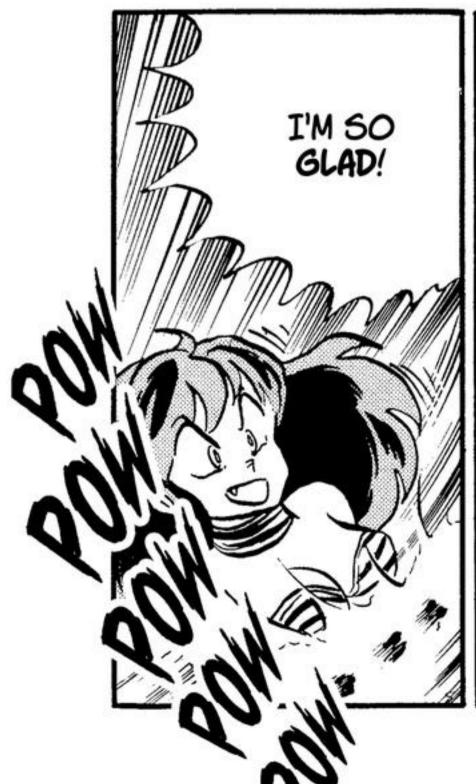


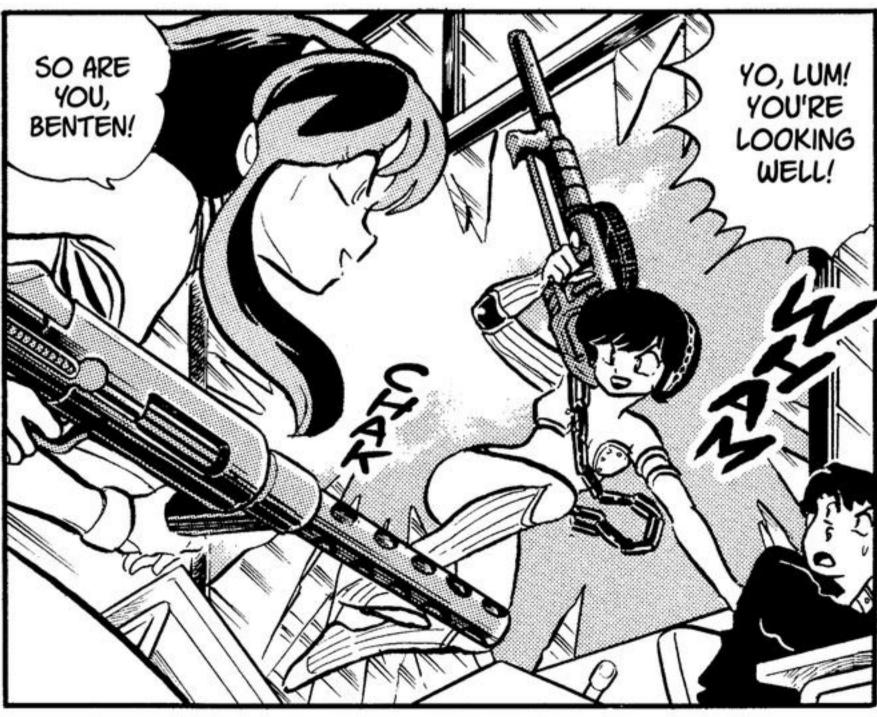




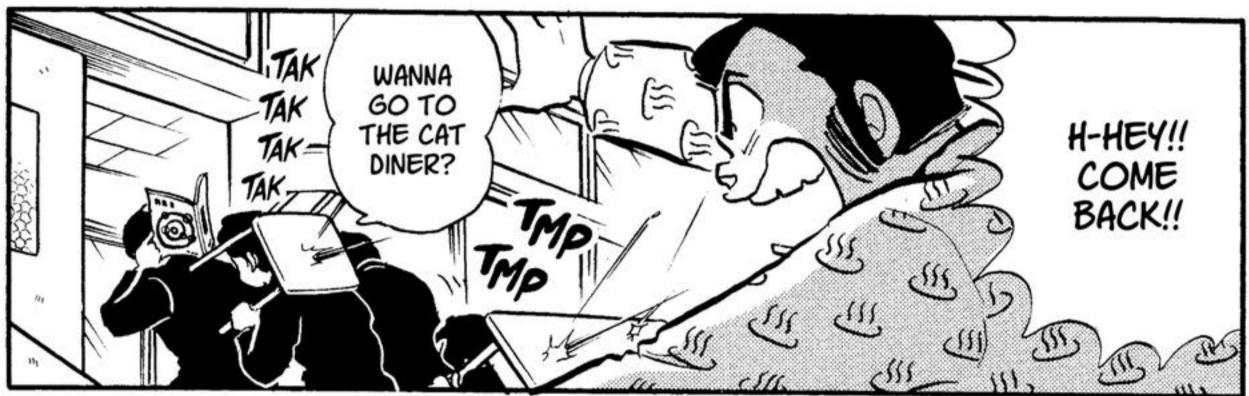


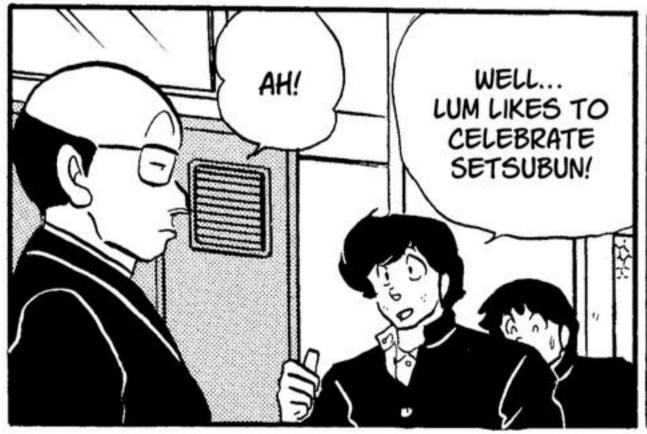


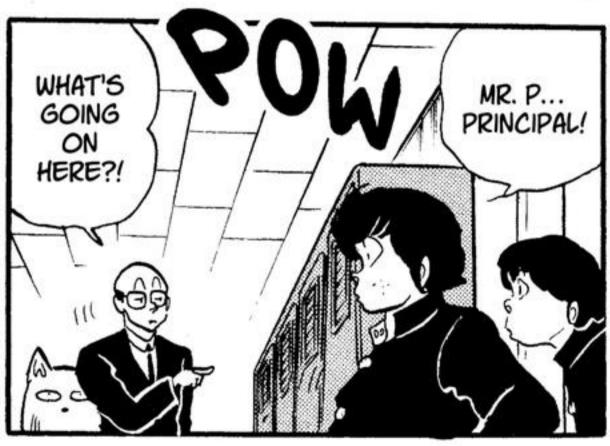




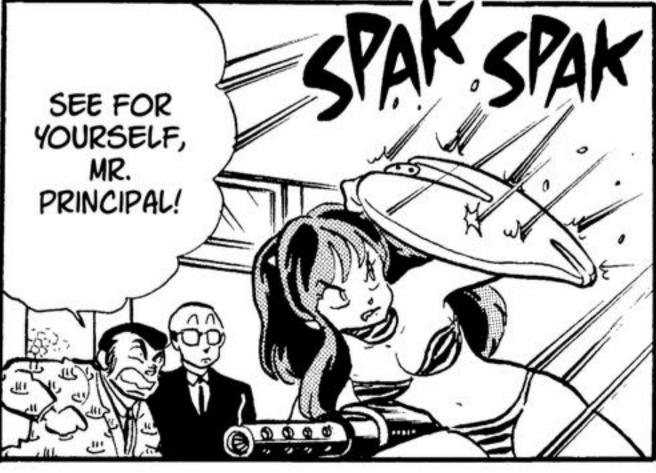


















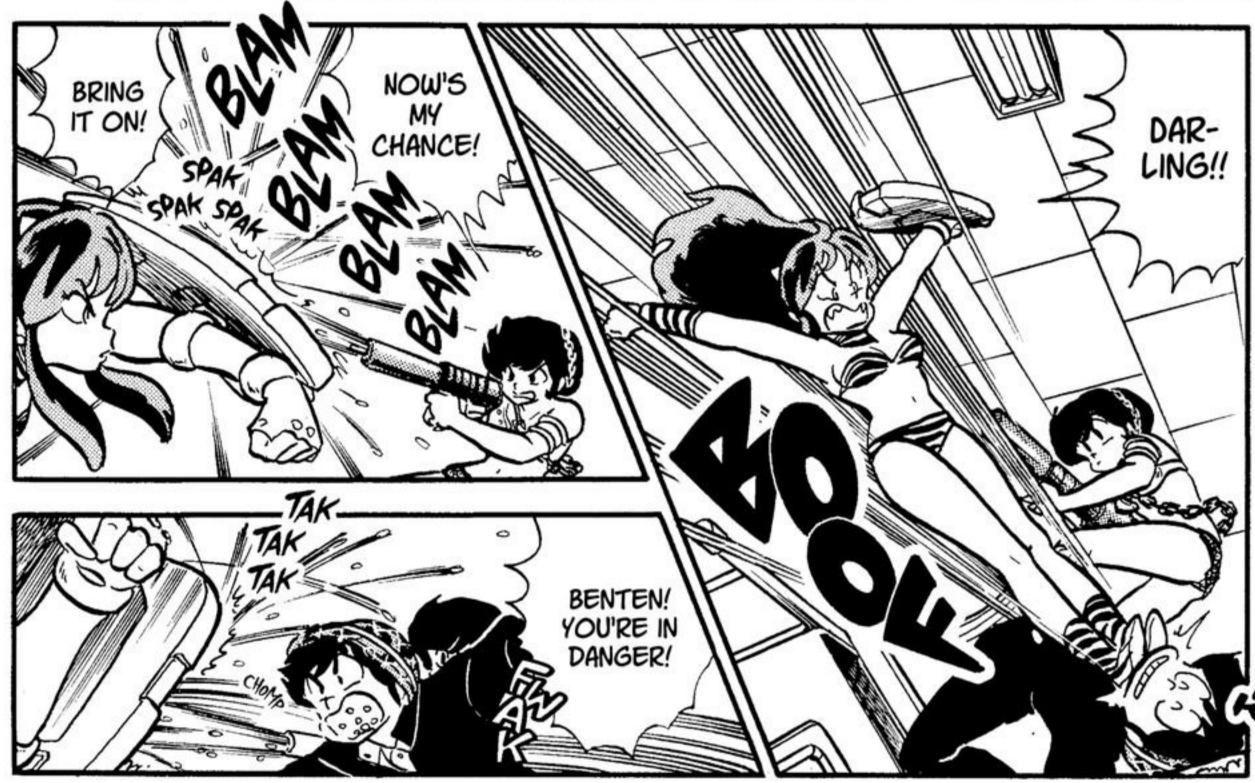




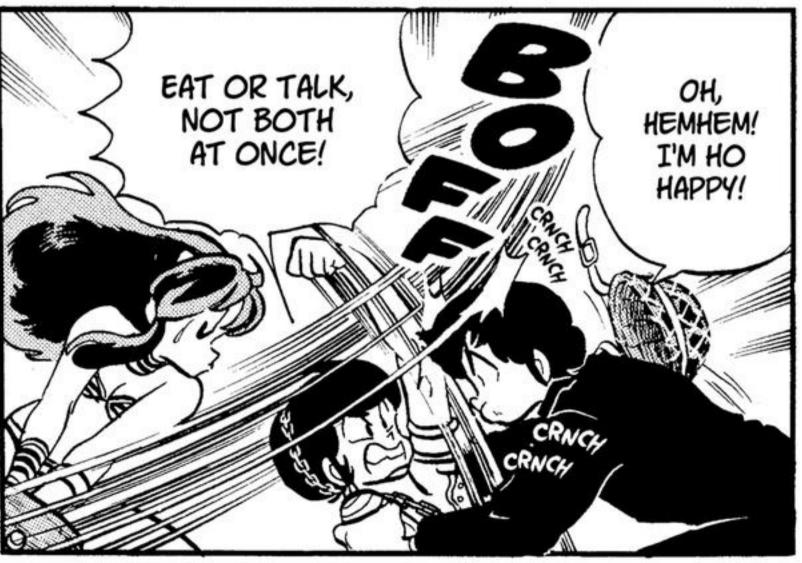




























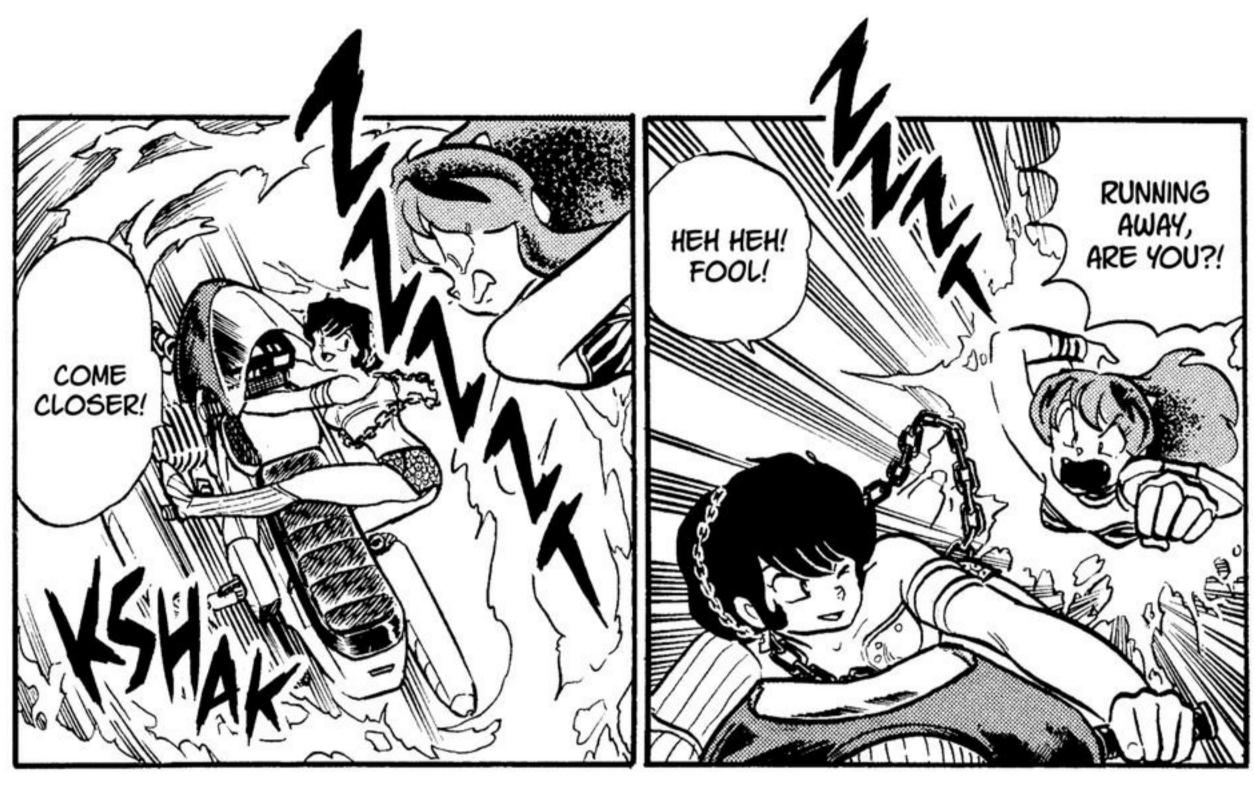












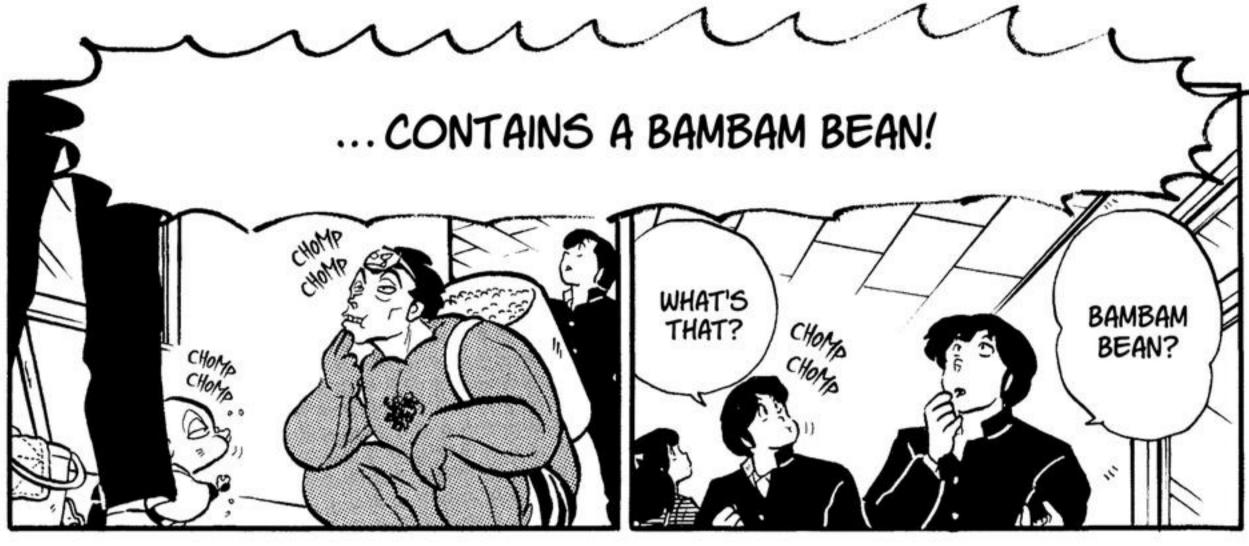














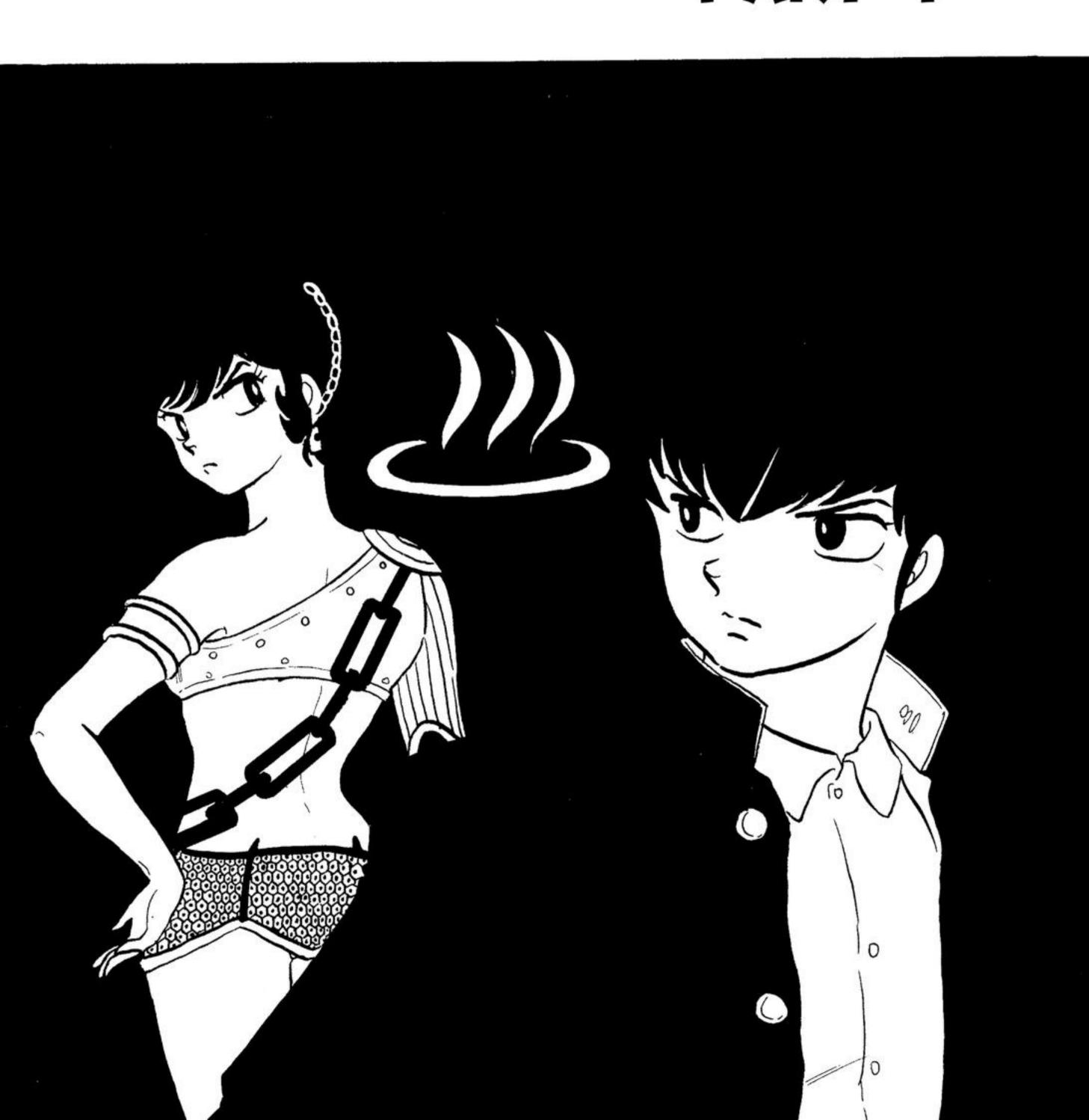






## CHAPTER 13: WOMAN VS. WOMAN SHOWDOWN

- PART 1 -





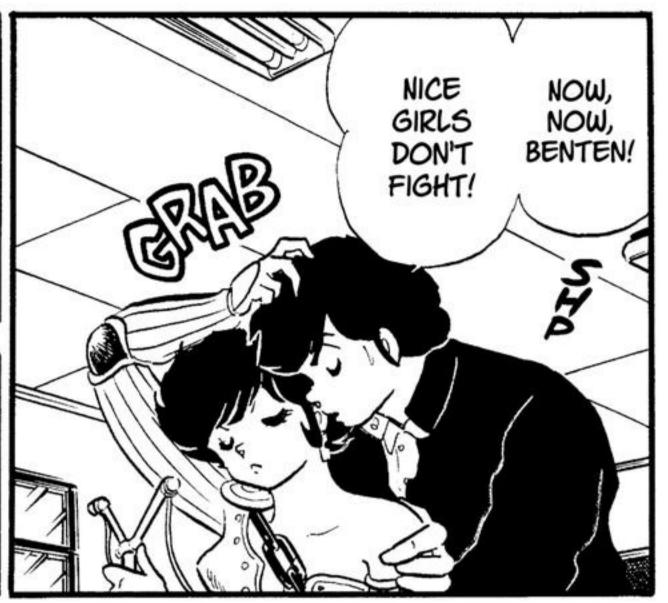










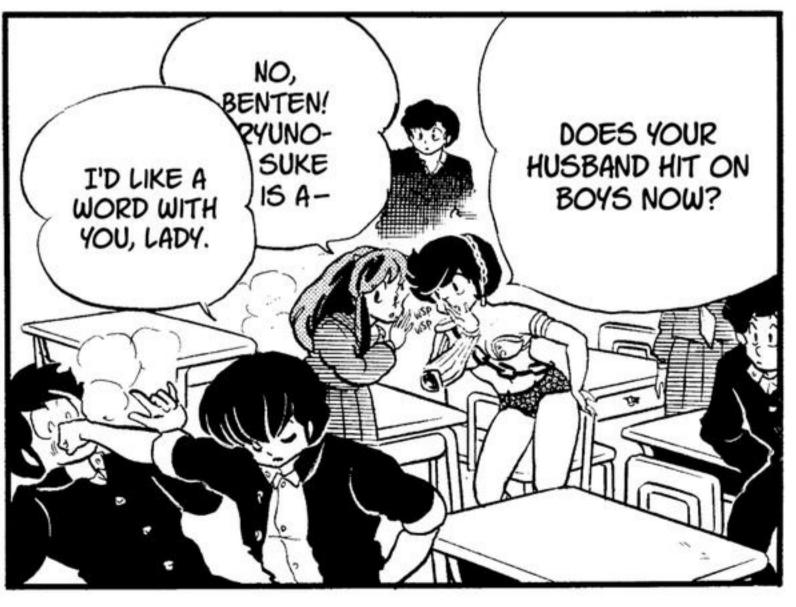
















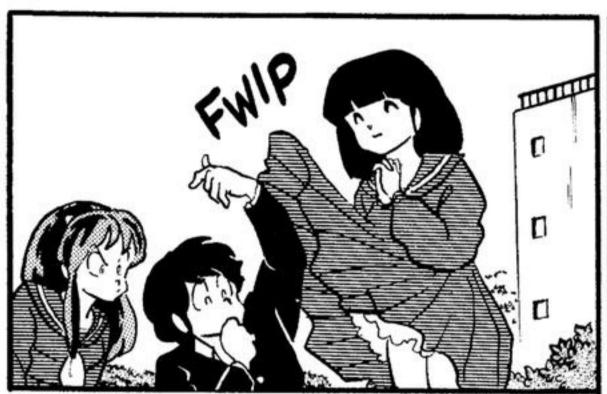




























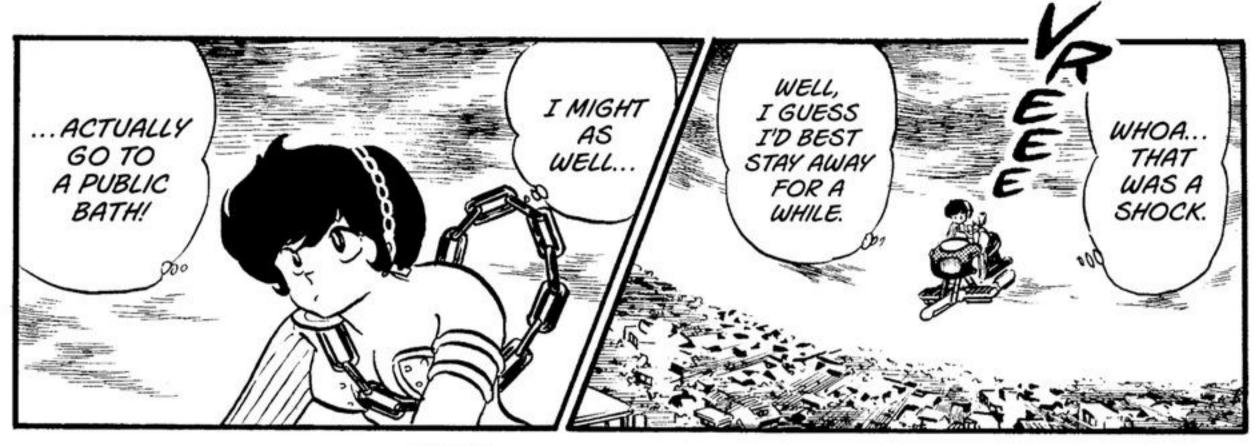


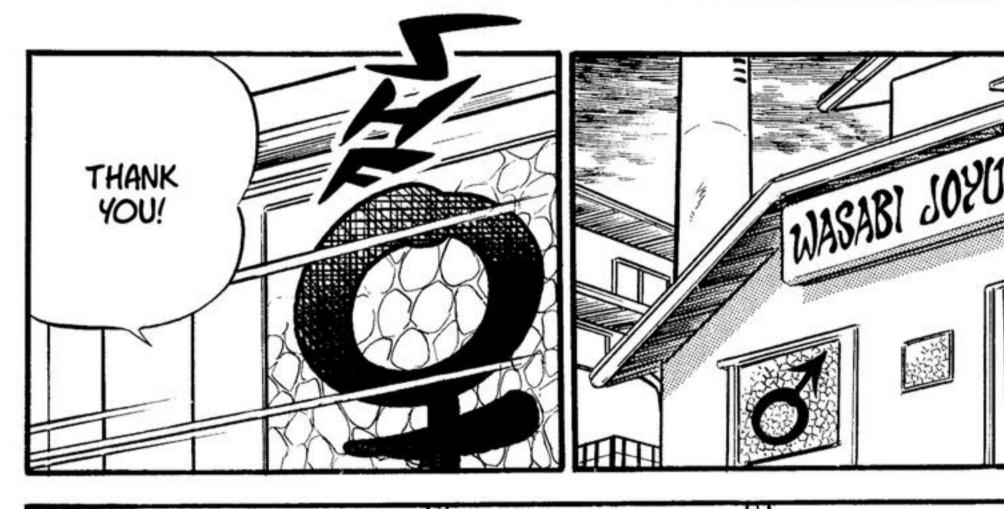


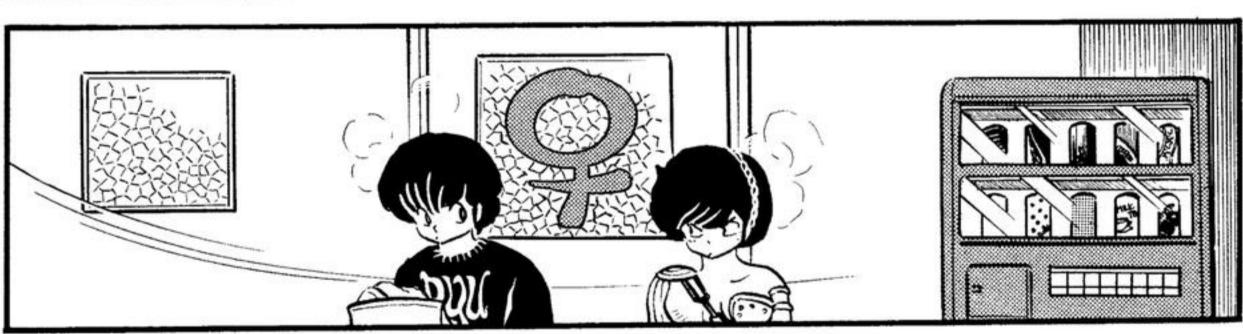












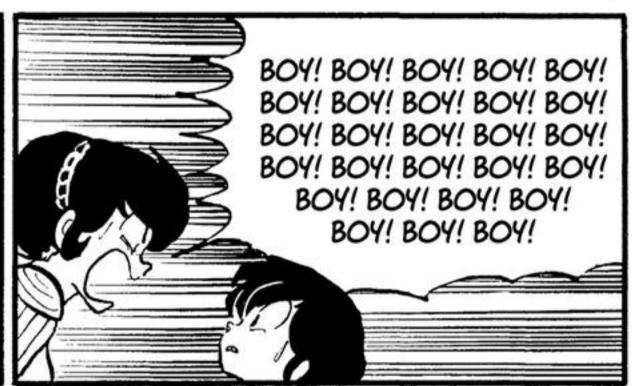


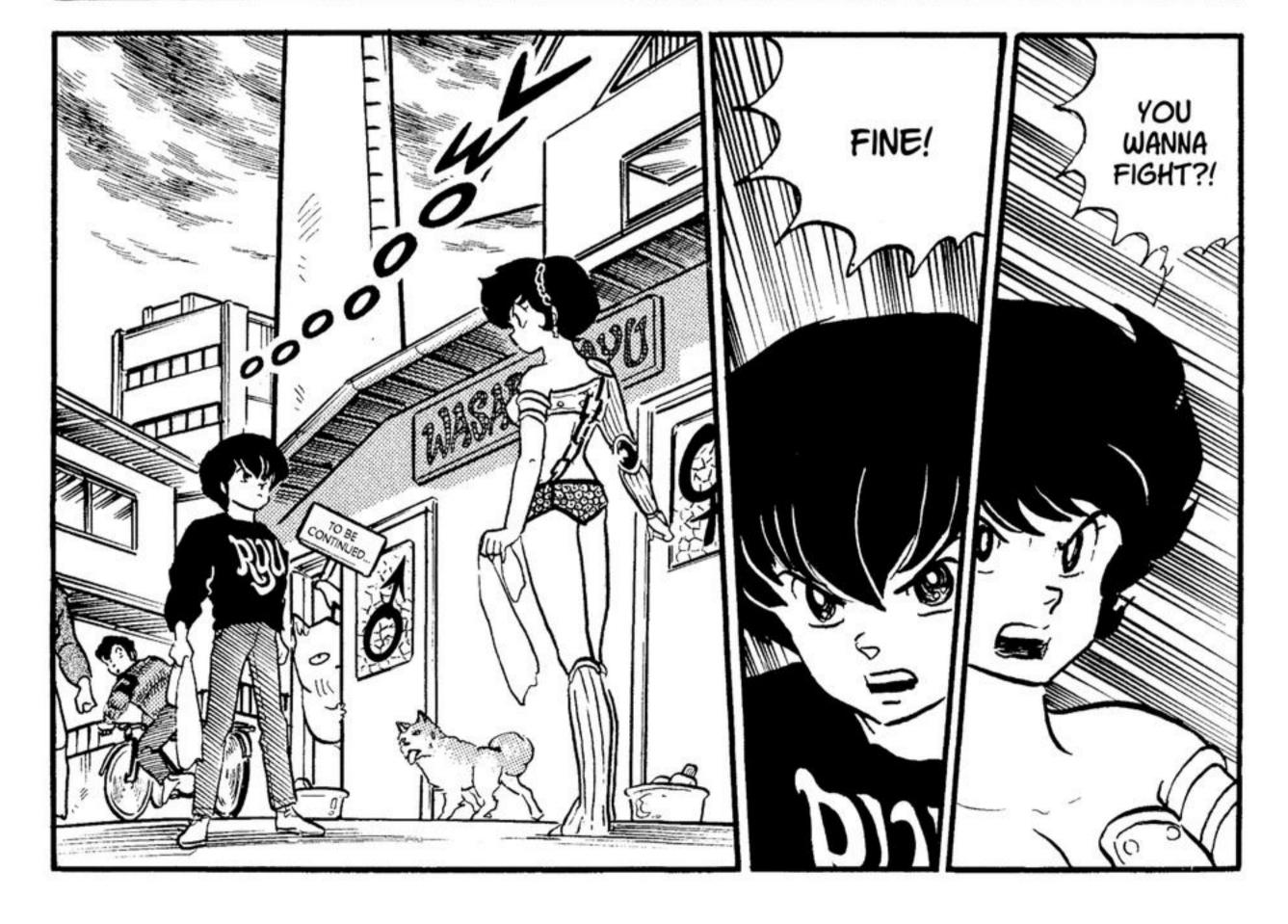






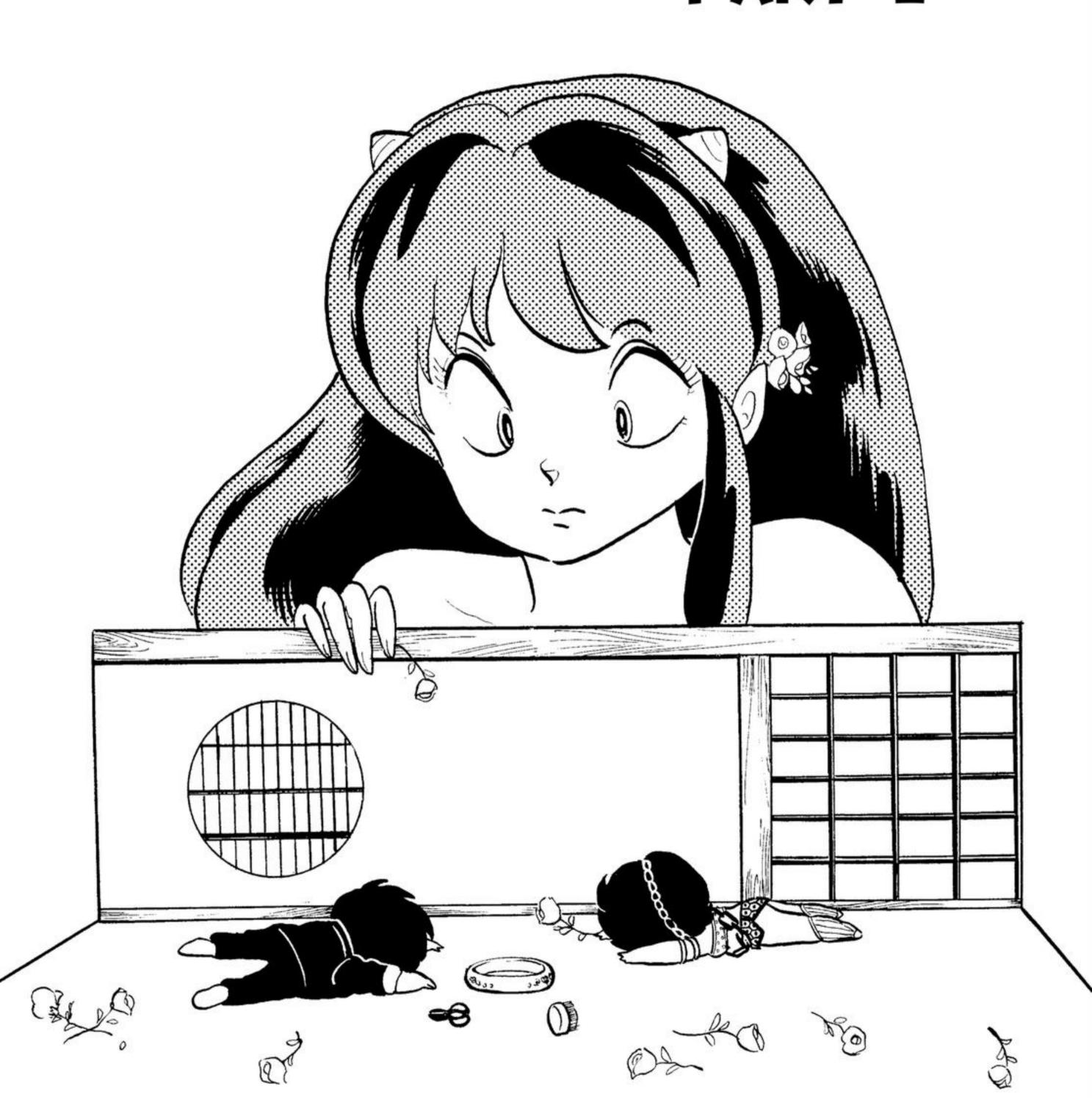






## CHAPTER 14: WOMAN VS. WOMAN SHOWDOWN

- PART 2 -





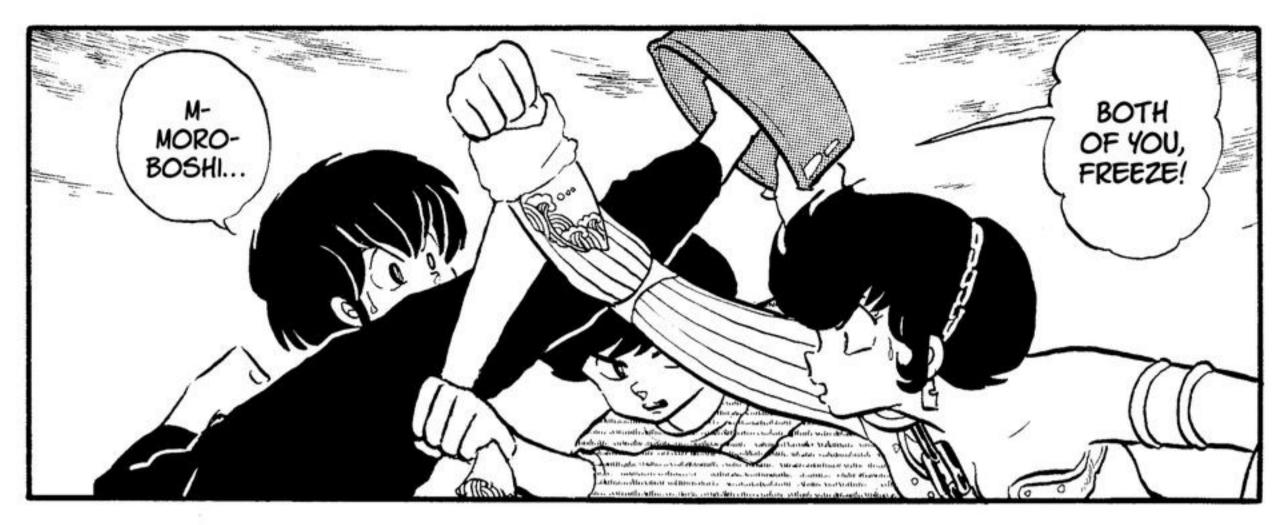








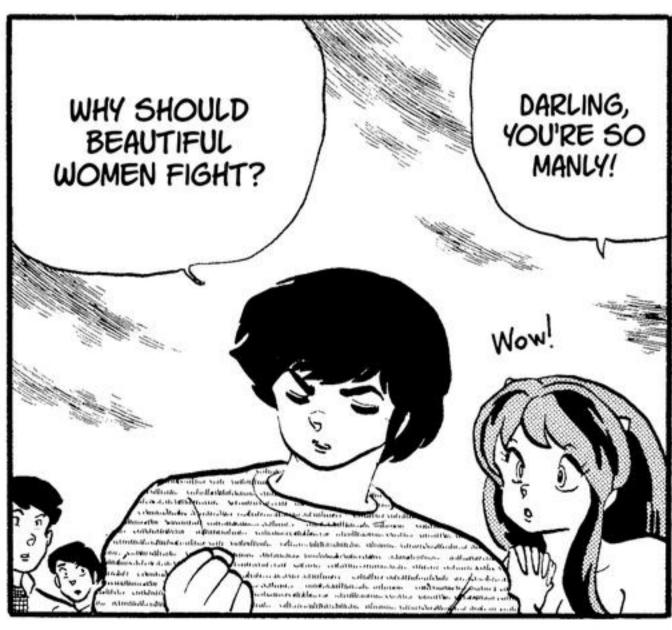




















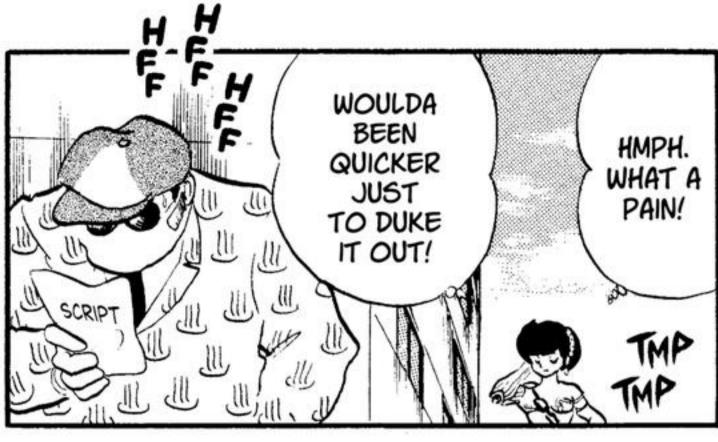


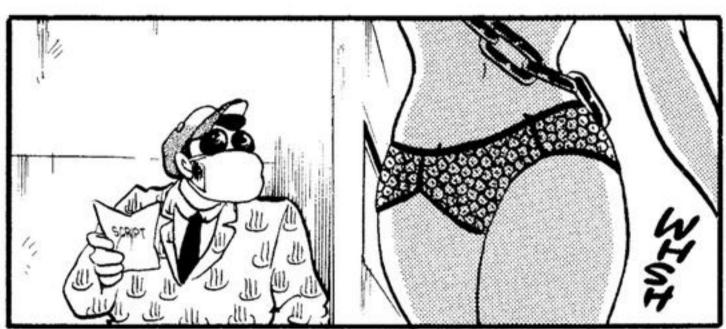


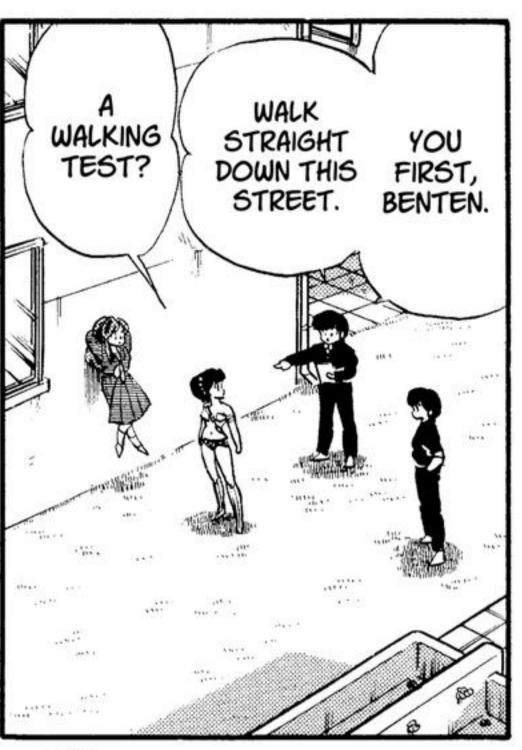


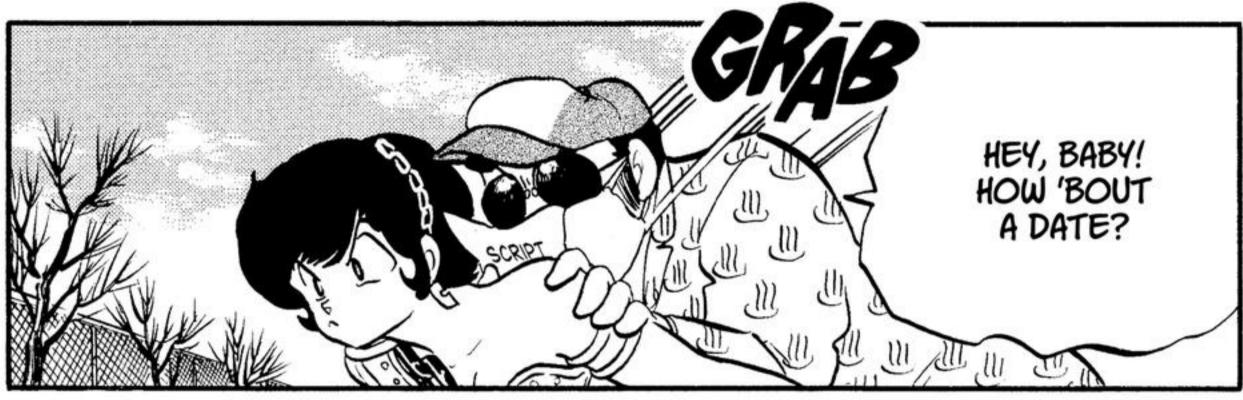
















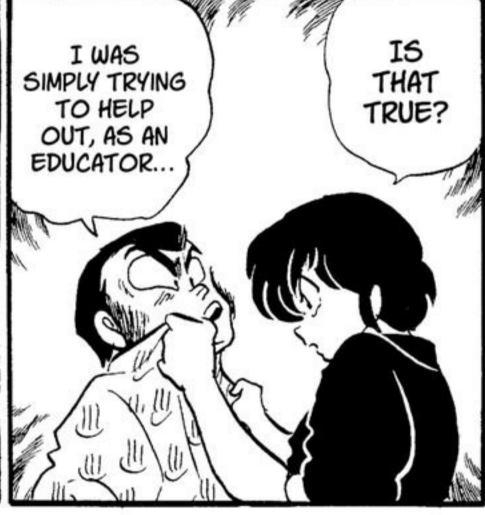






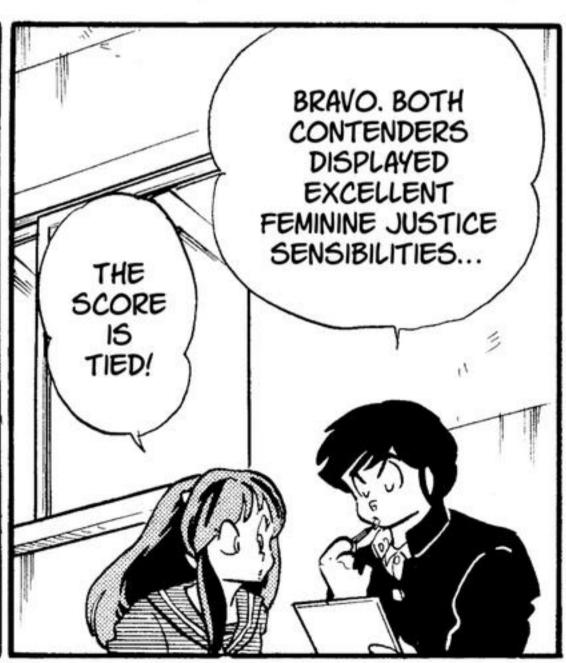


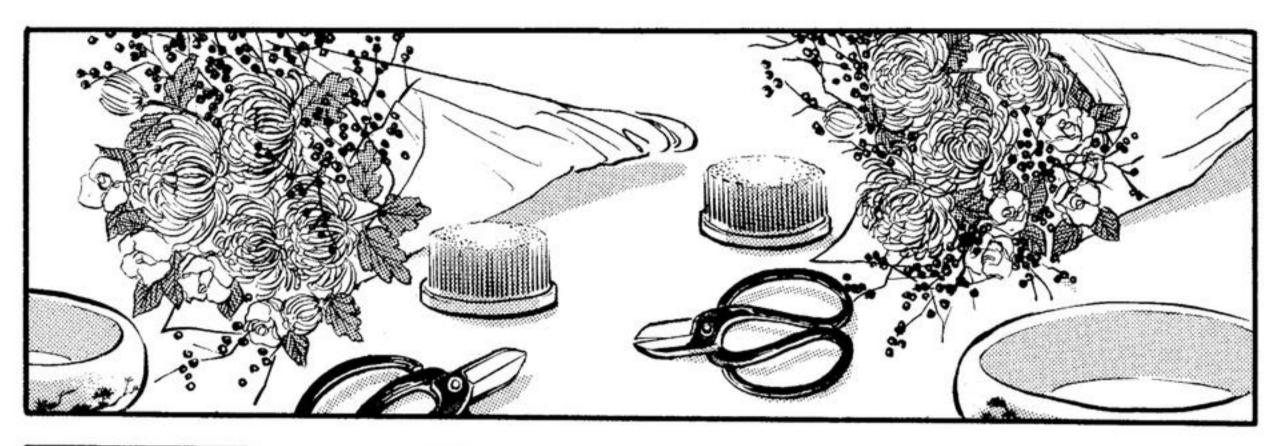








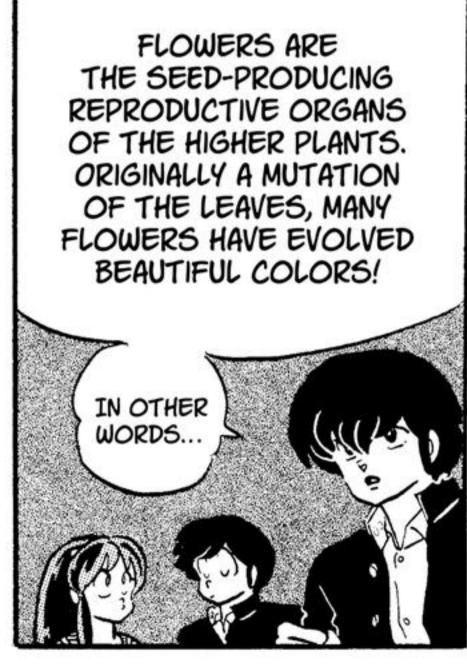




NOW YOU'RE







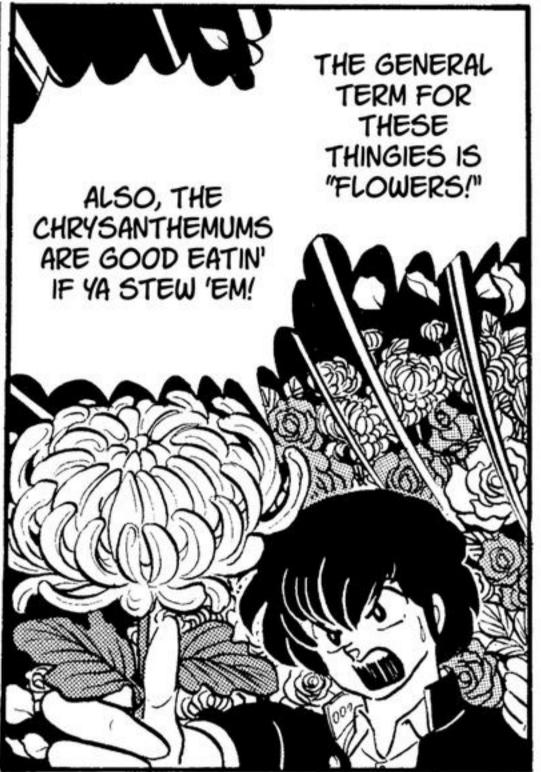
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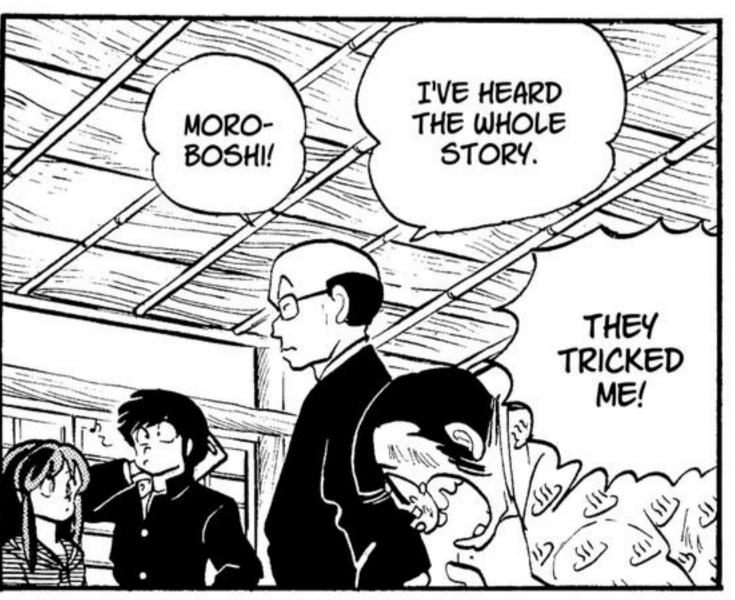




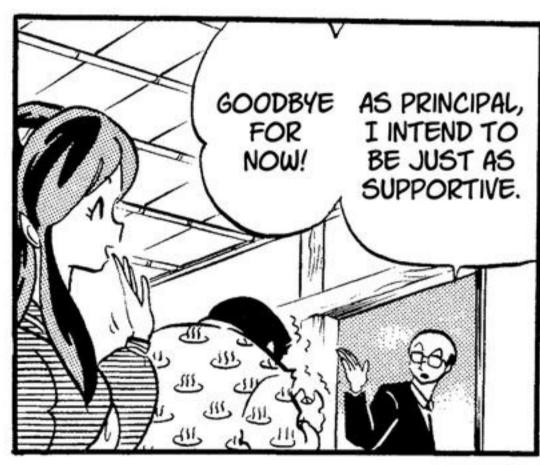


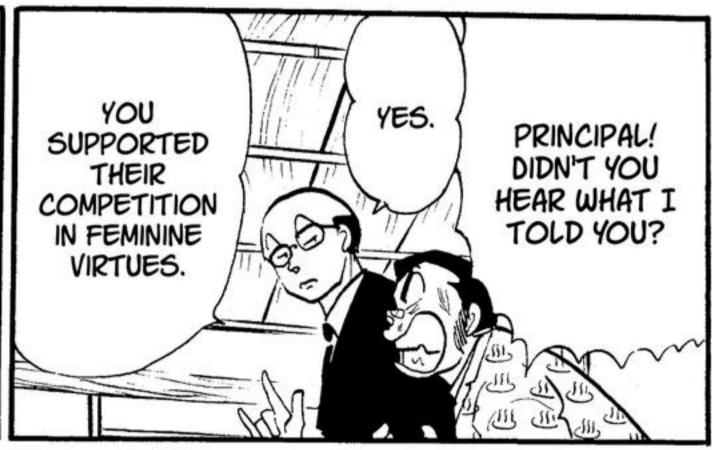


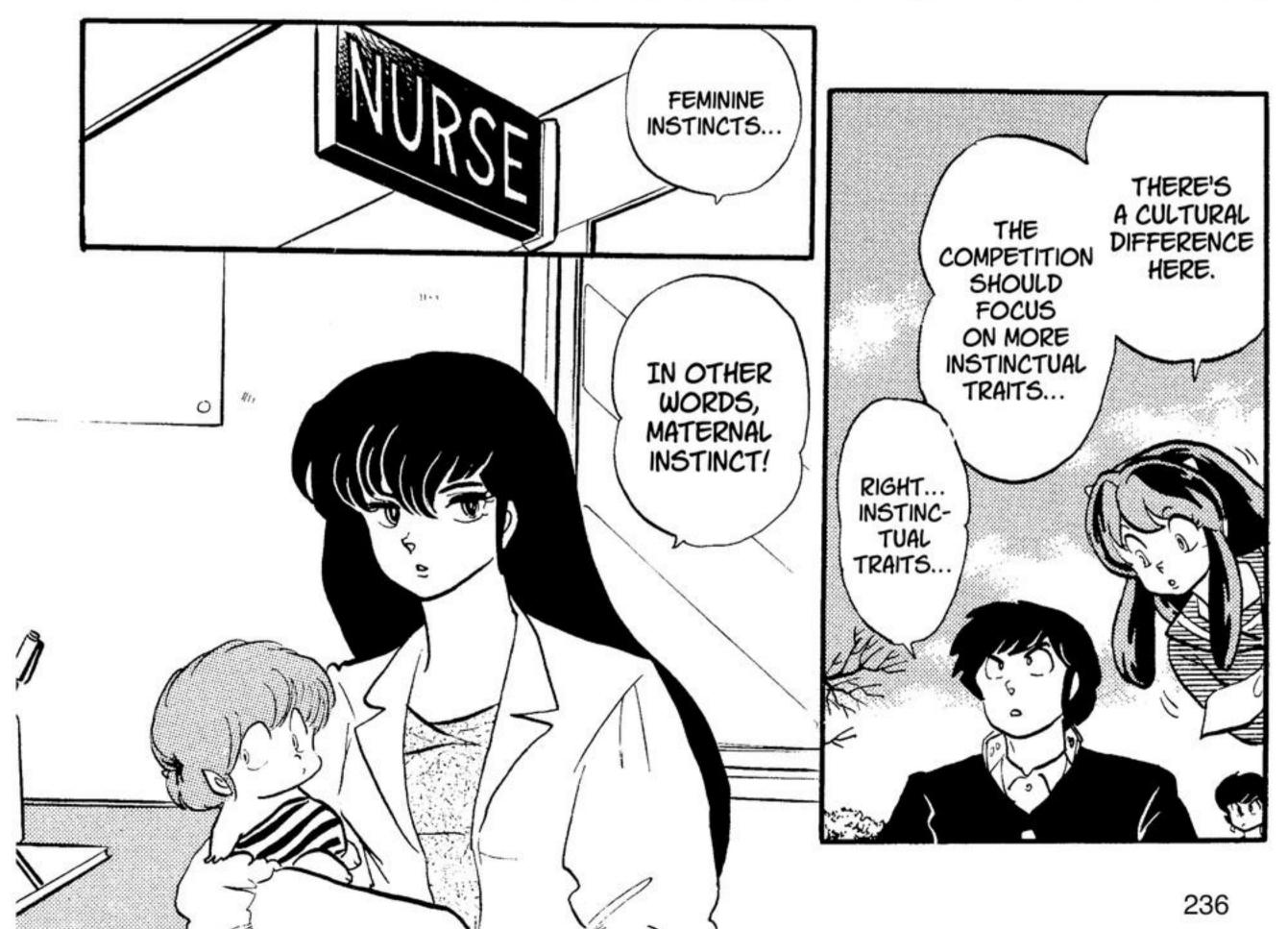


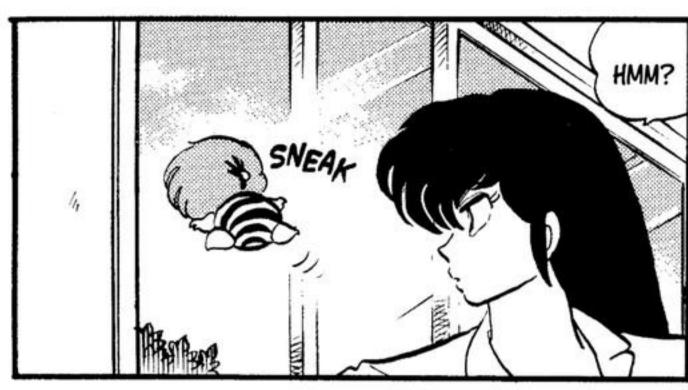














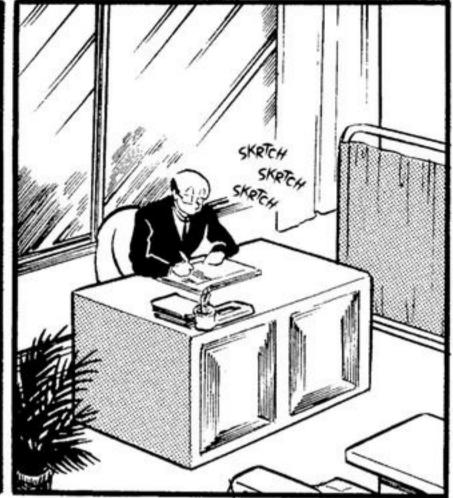


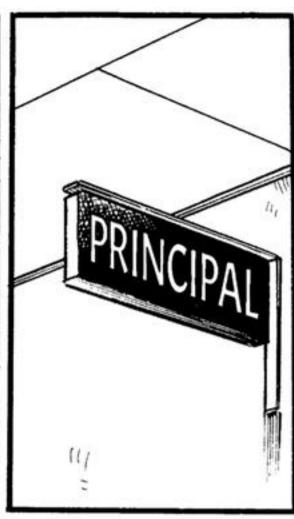


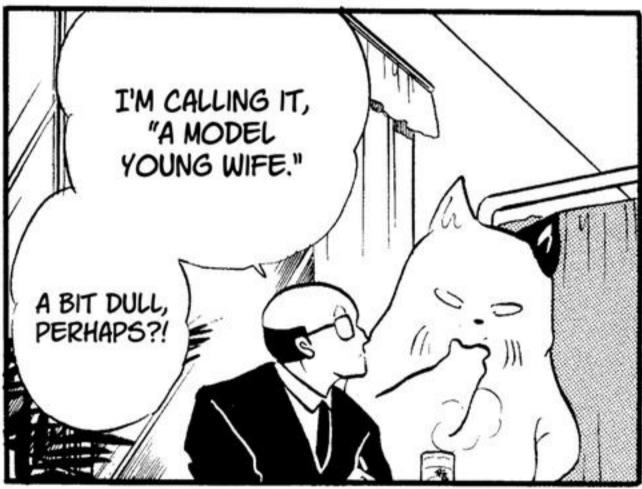




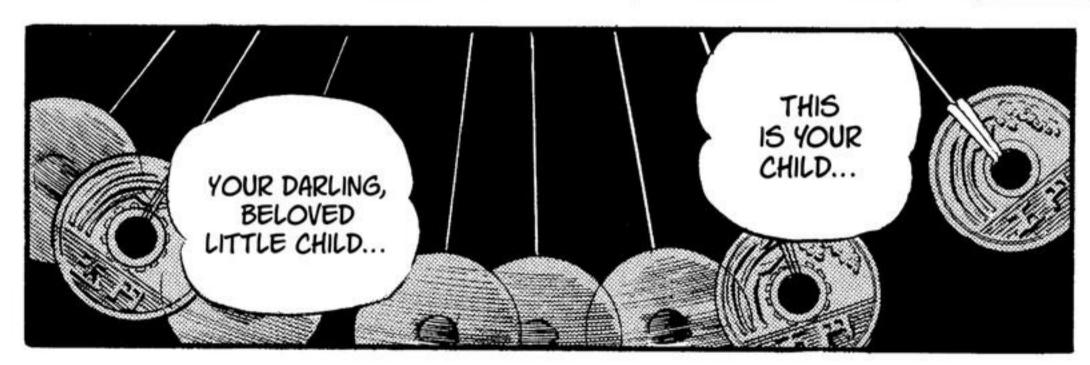




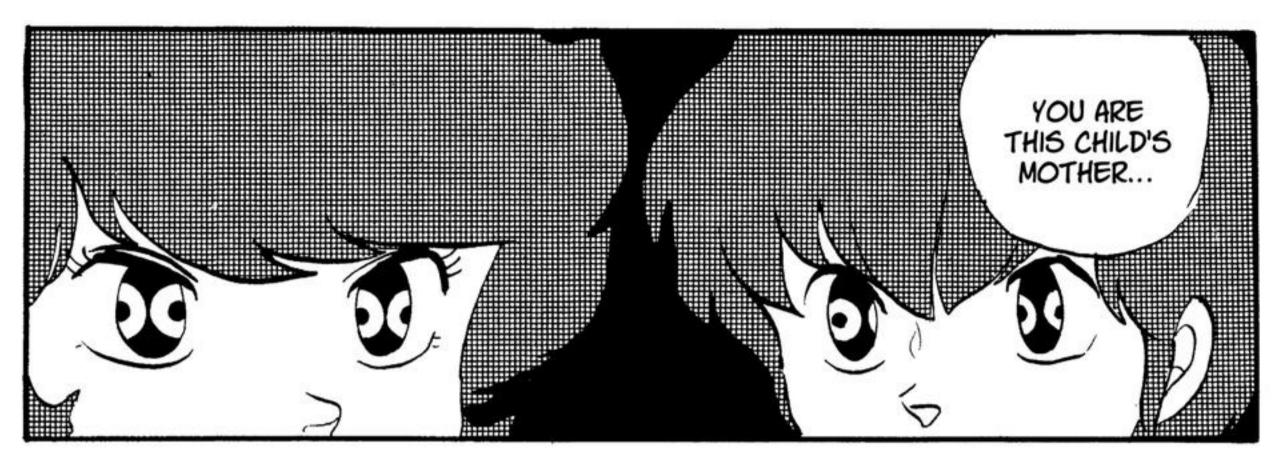








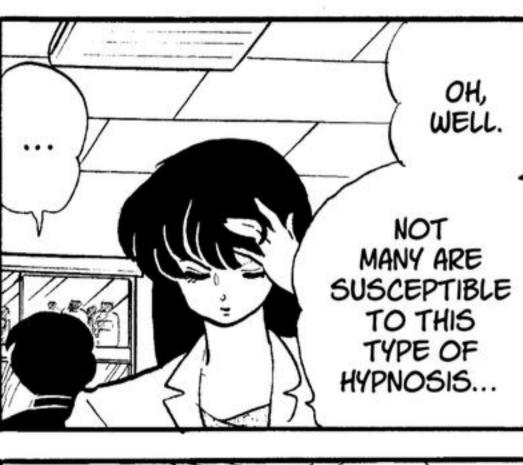




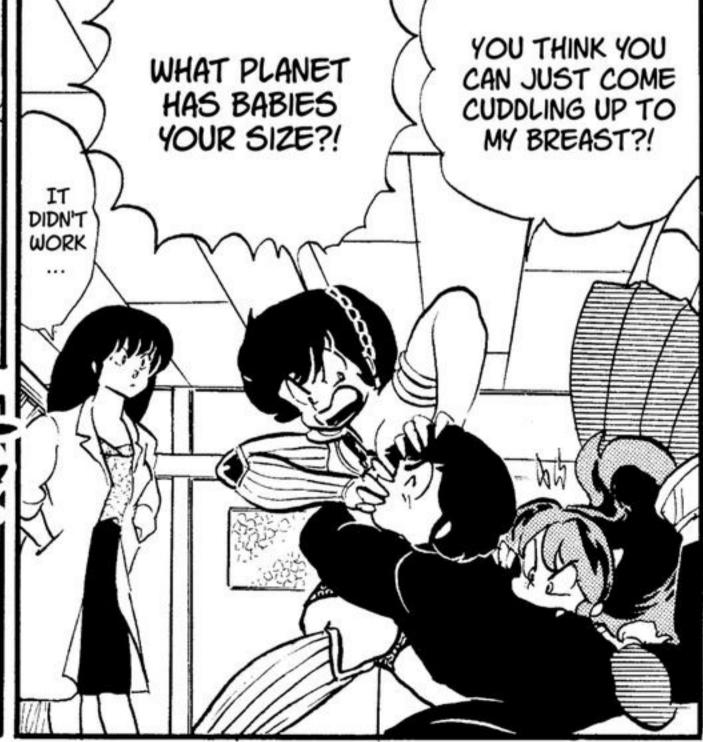


















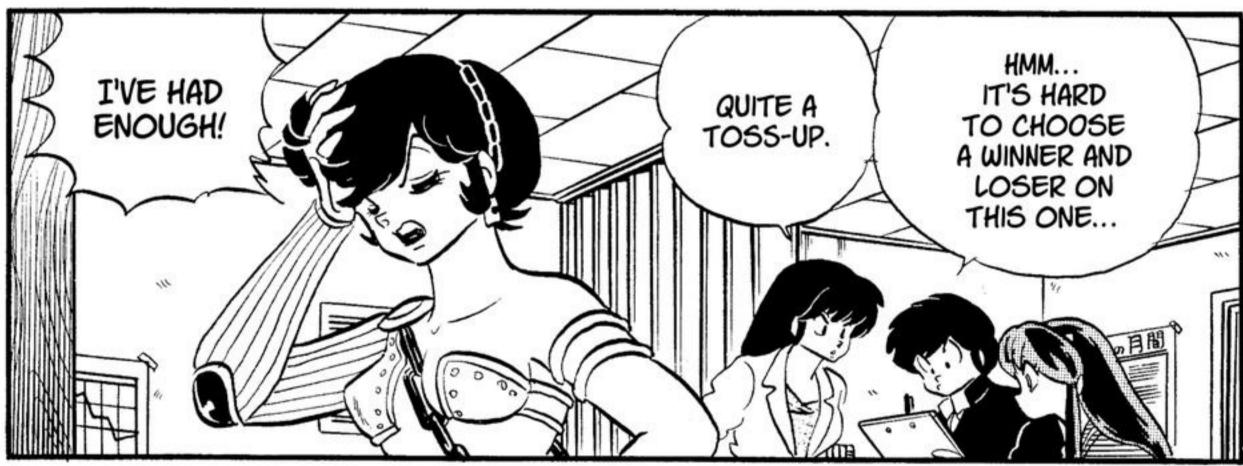
















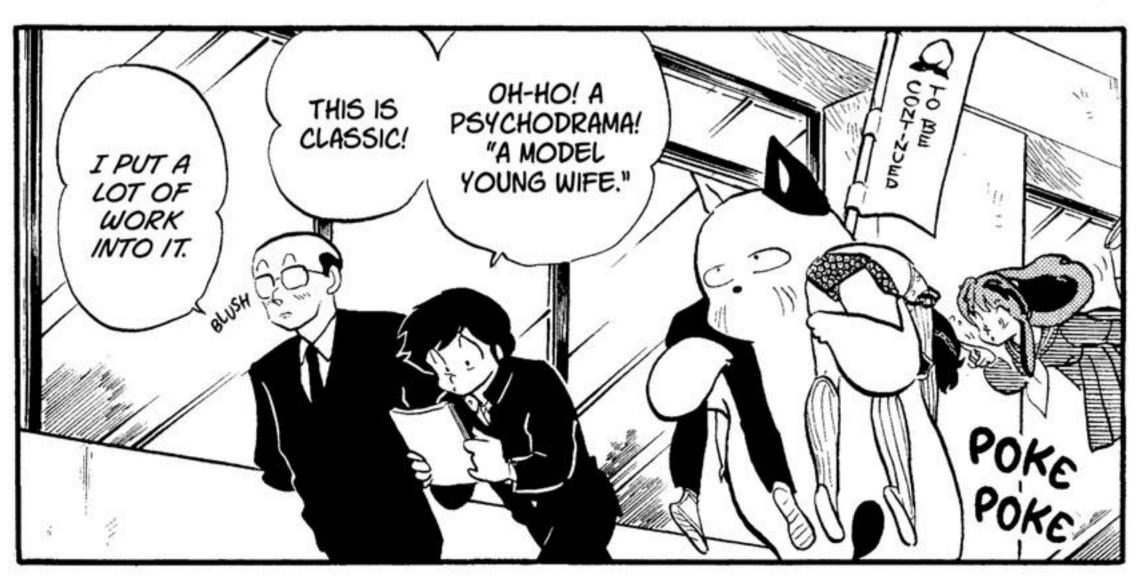






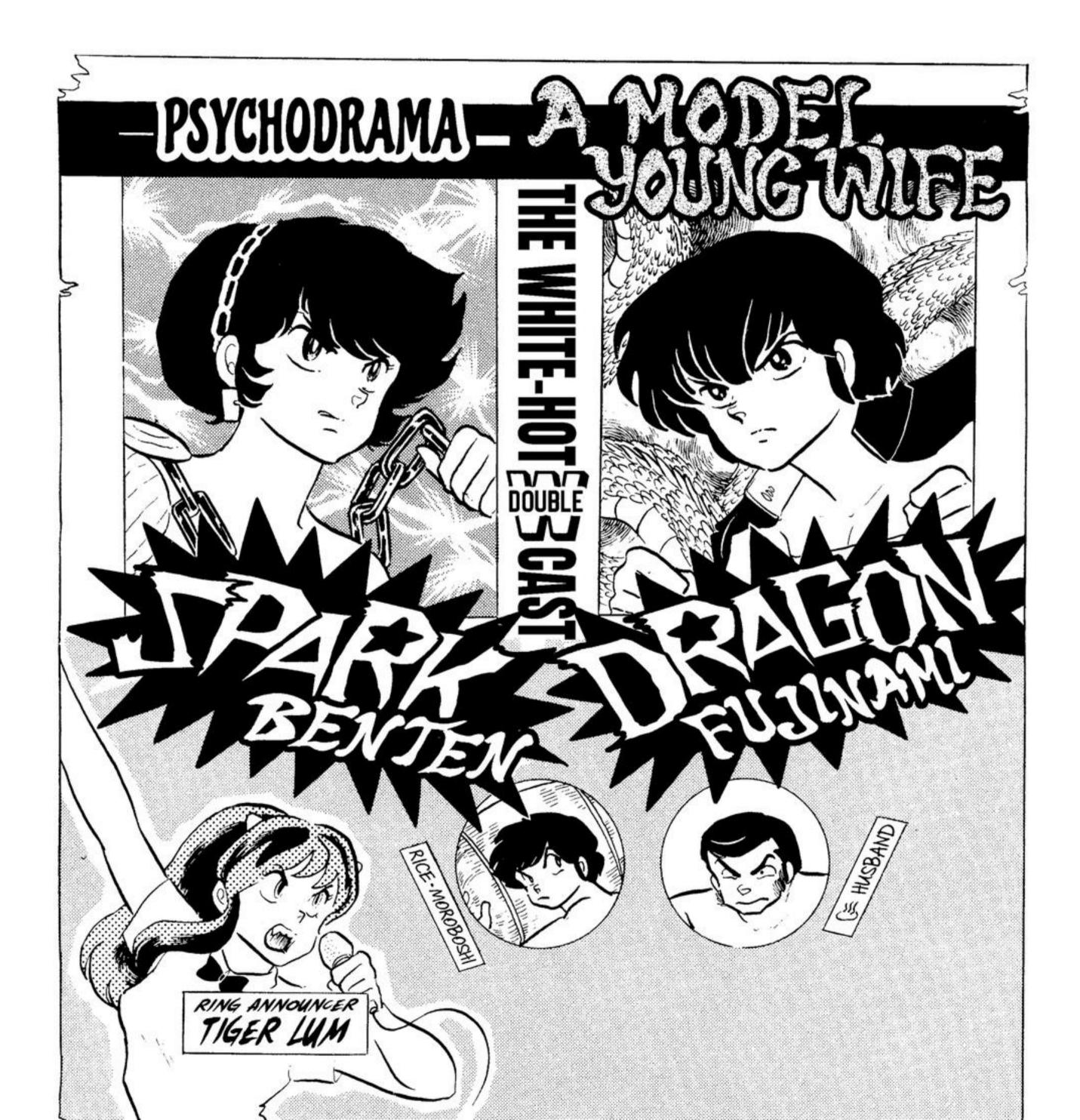






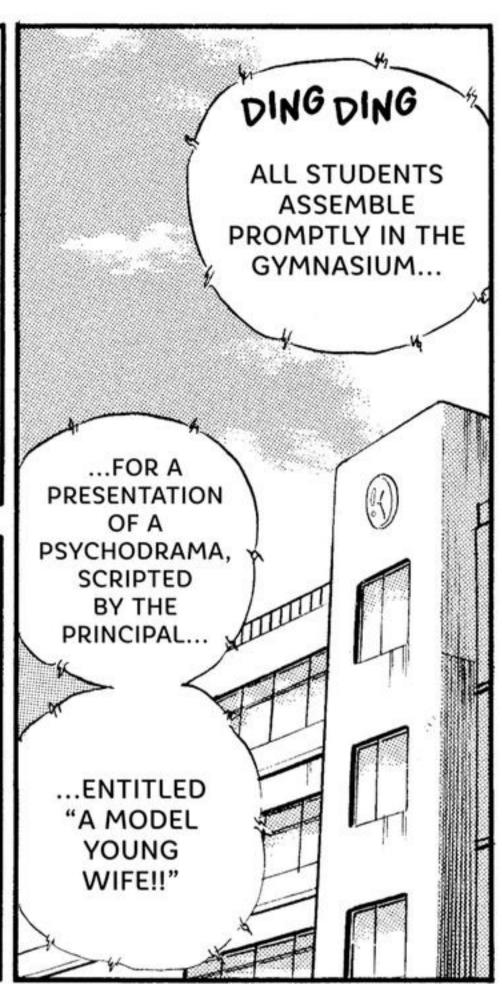
## CHAPTER 15: WOMAN VS. WOMAN SHOWDOWN

- PART 3 -





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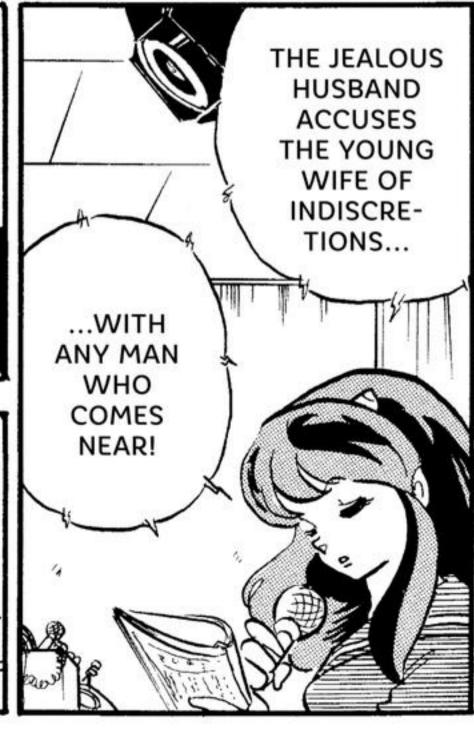










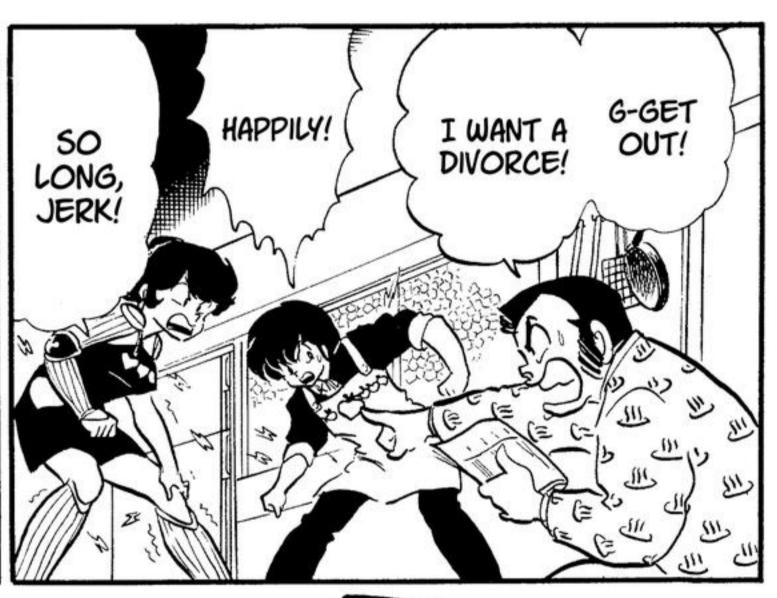


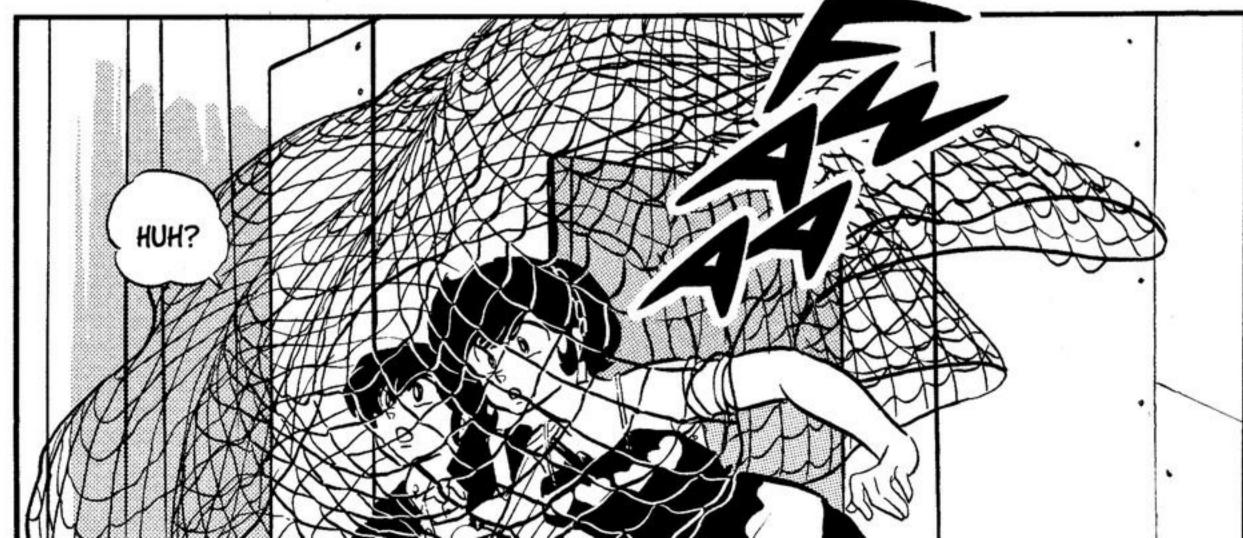


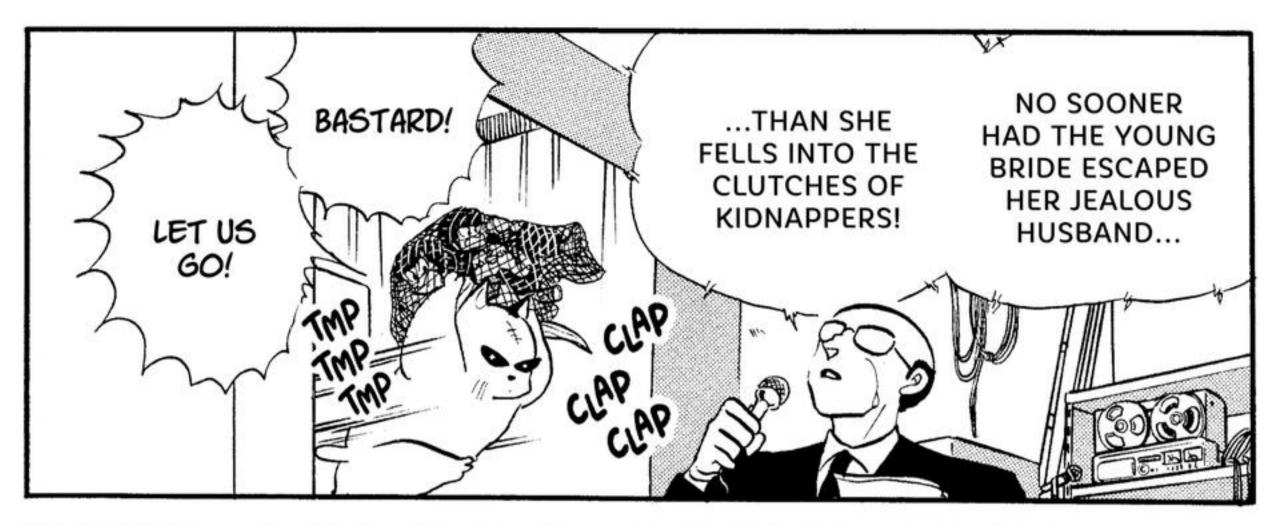
























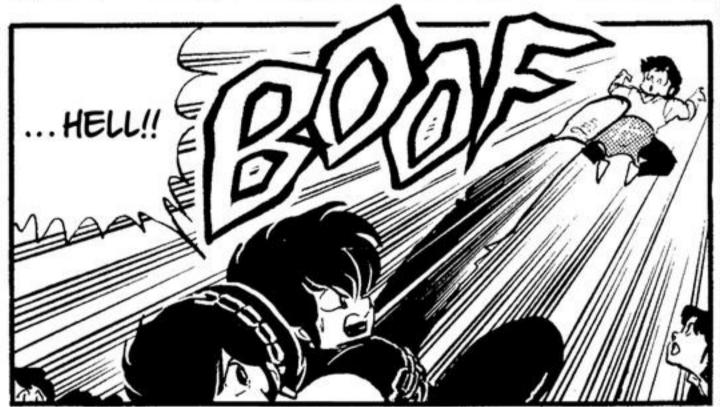












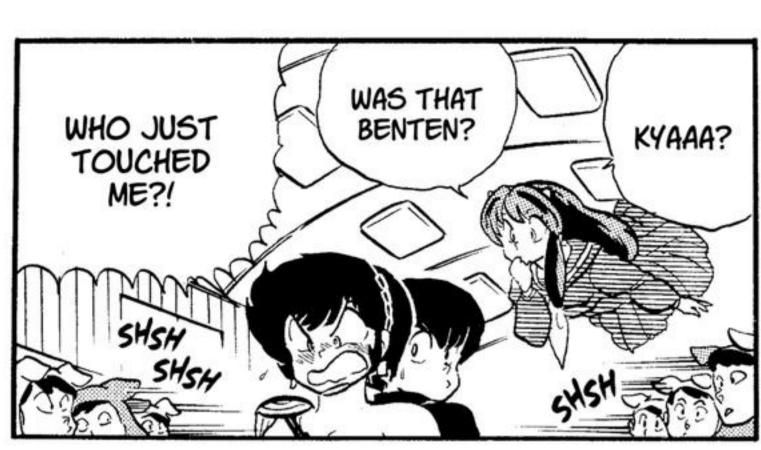






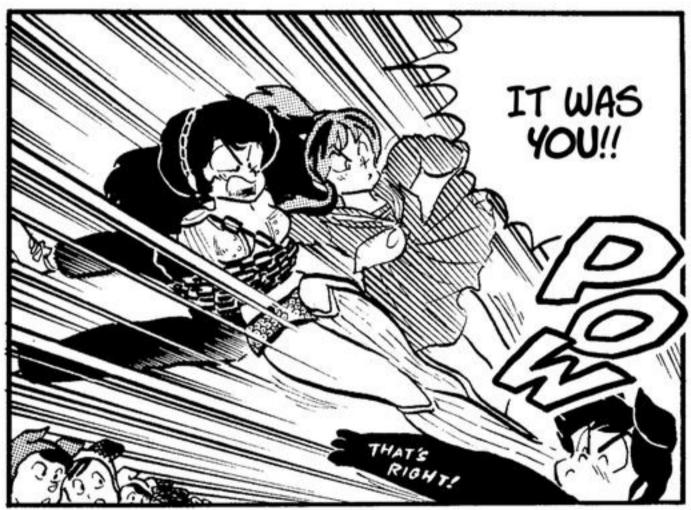


























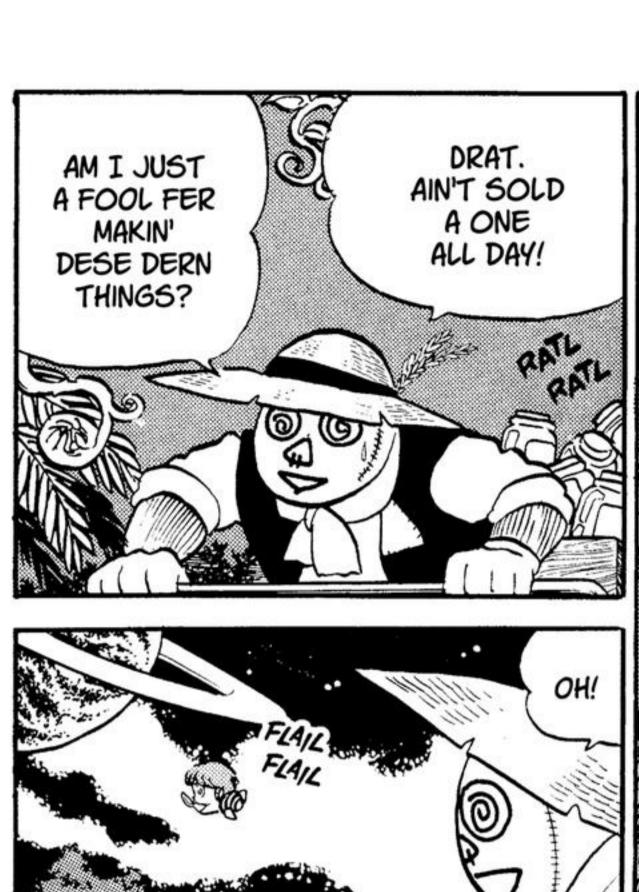






## CHAPTER 168 BIG BOTTLE, UTILE BOTTLE





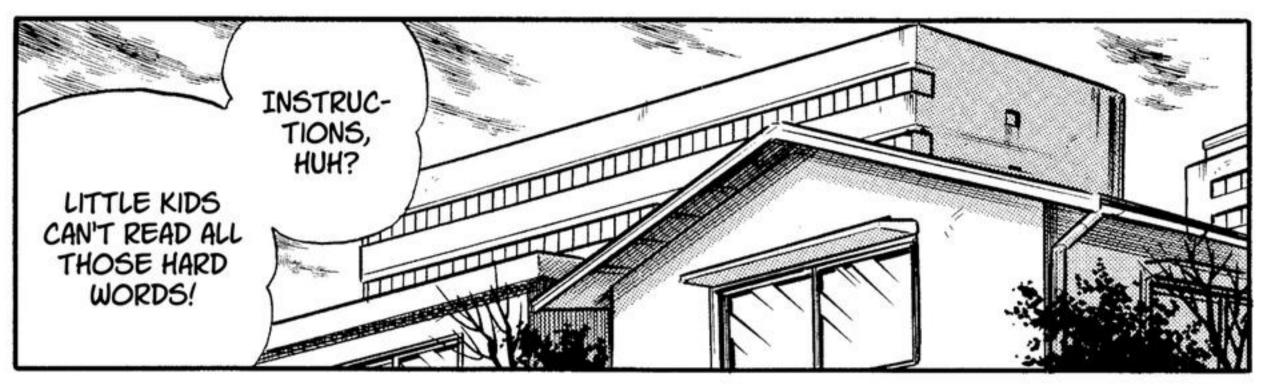


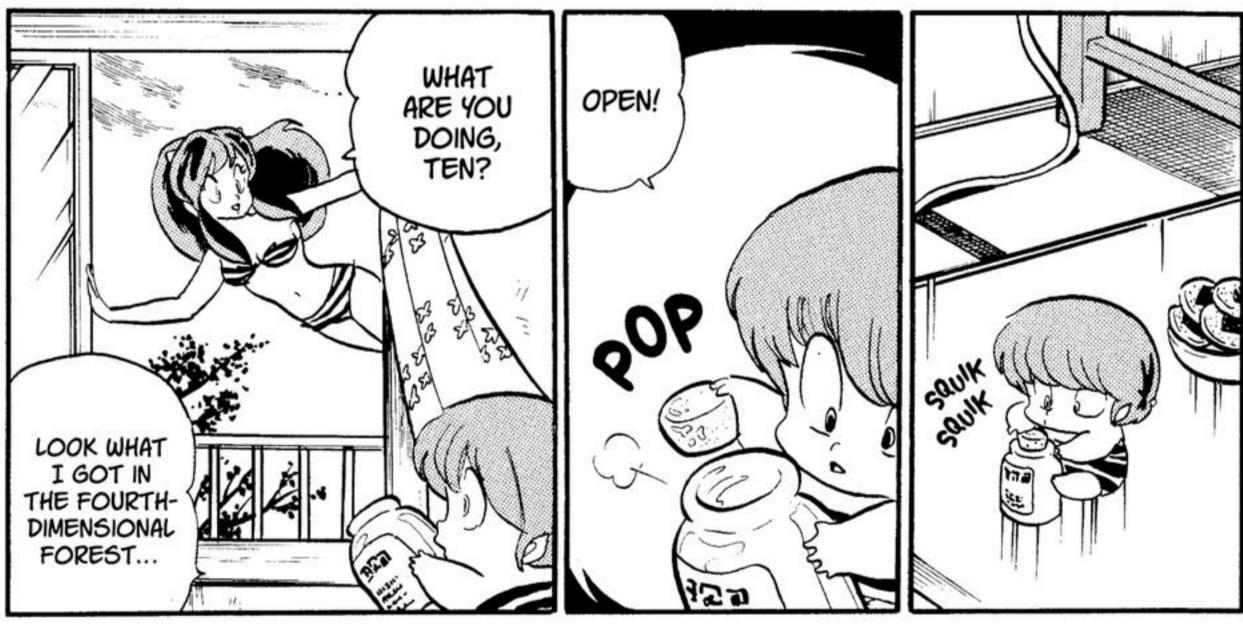




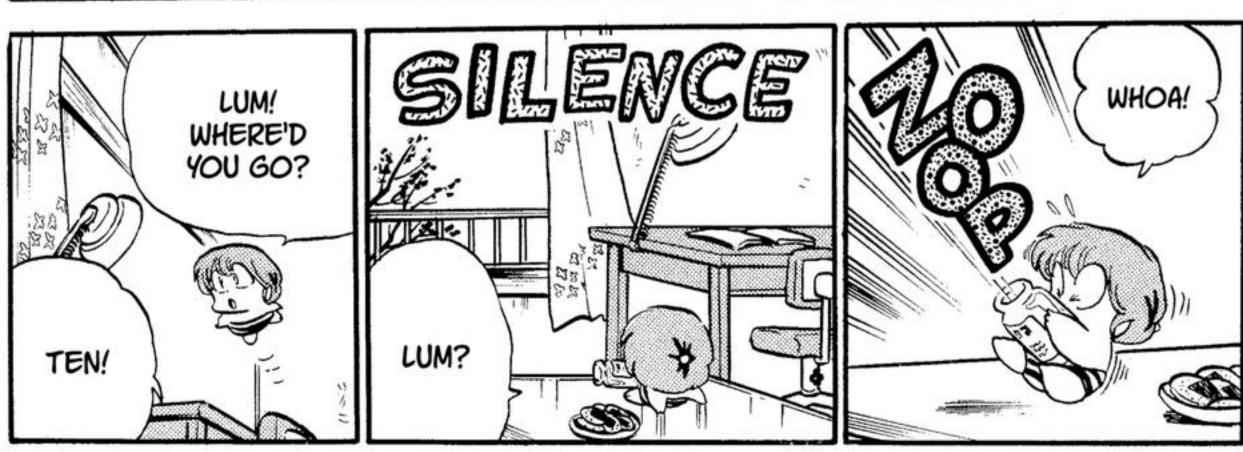






































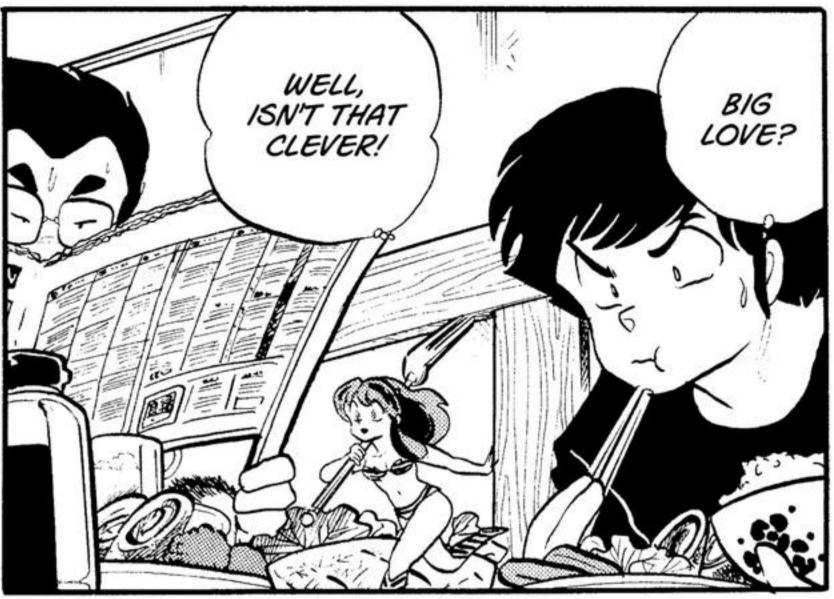






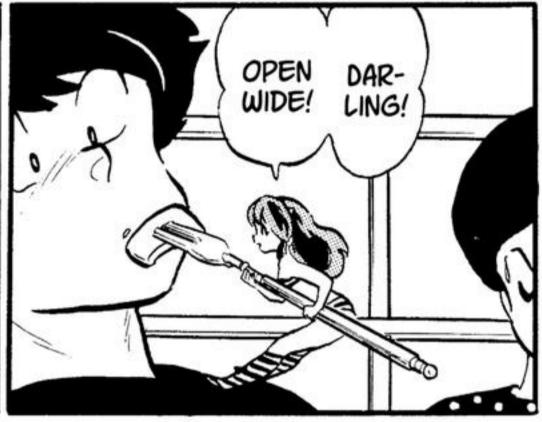




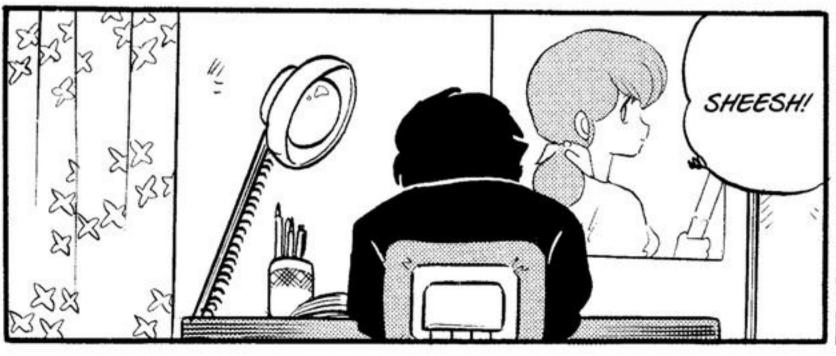










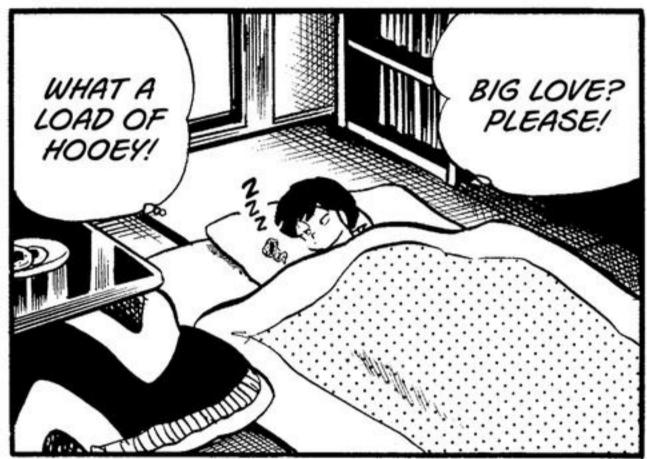






















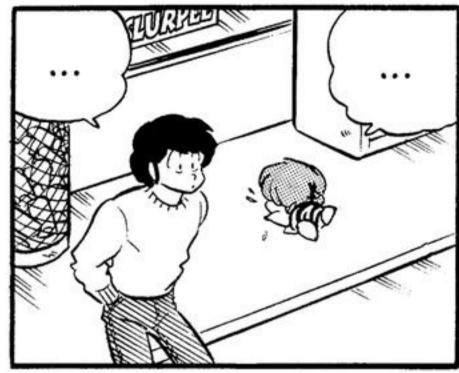


















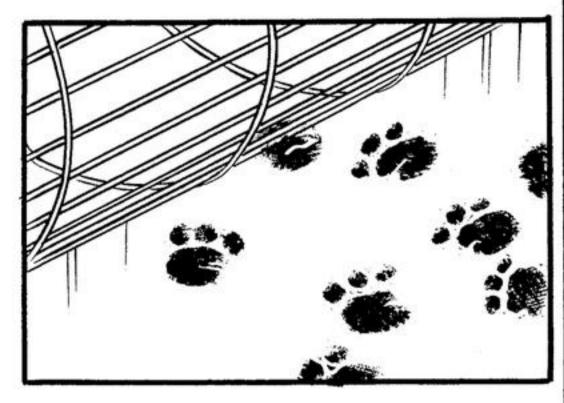










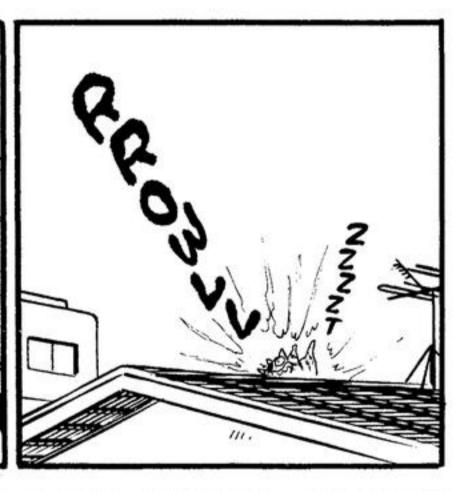










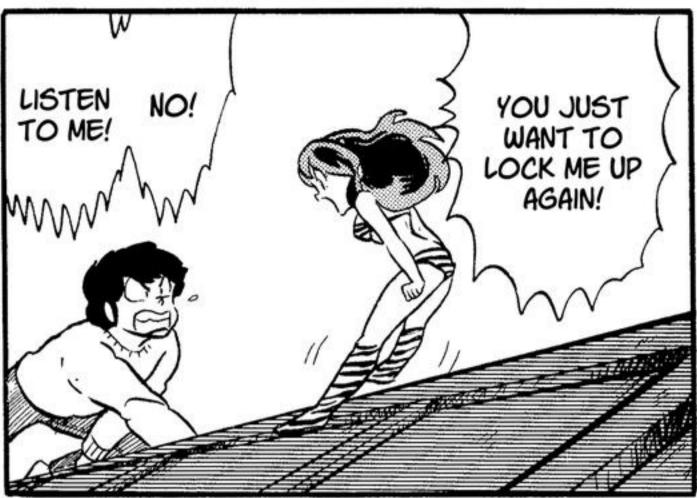






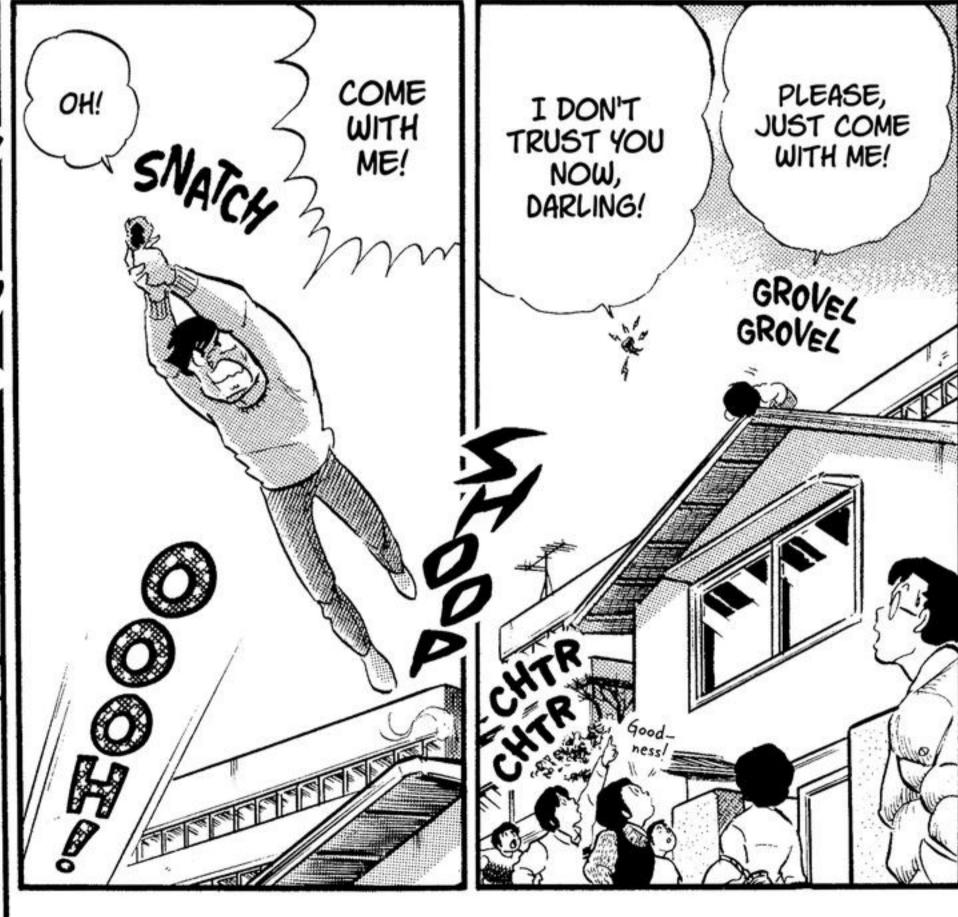














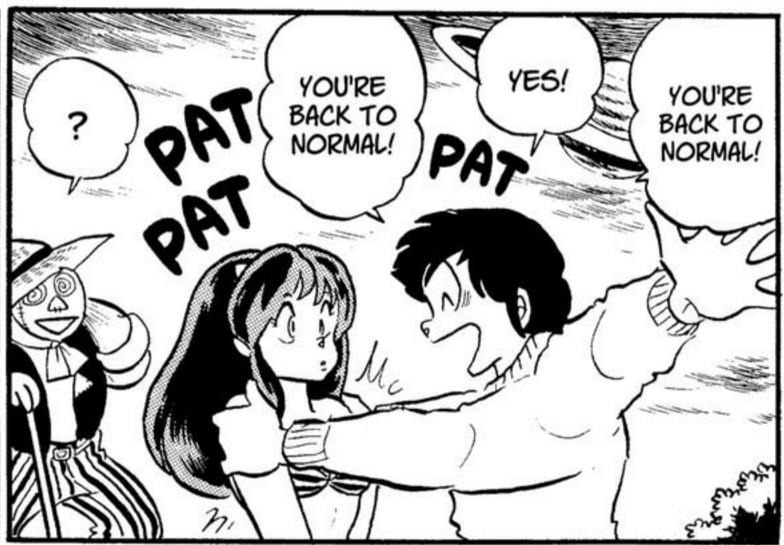


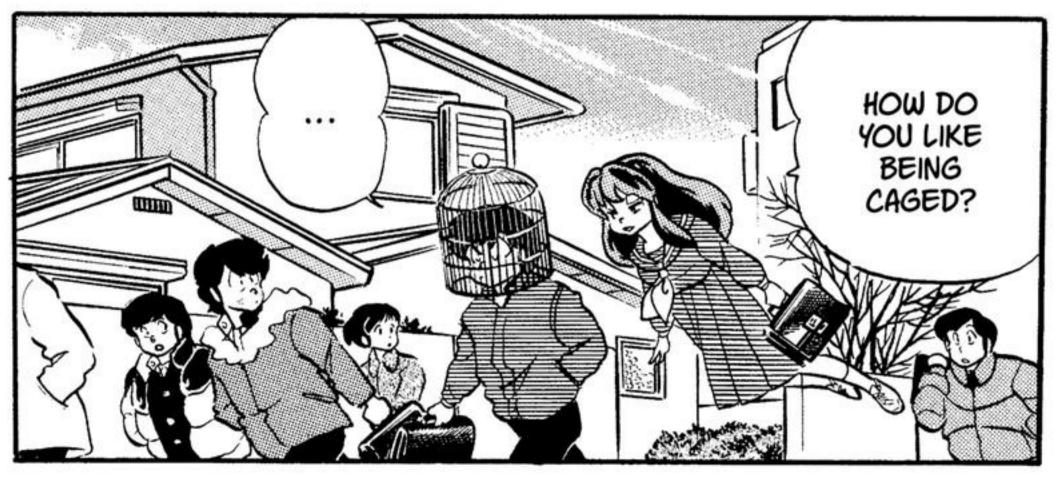








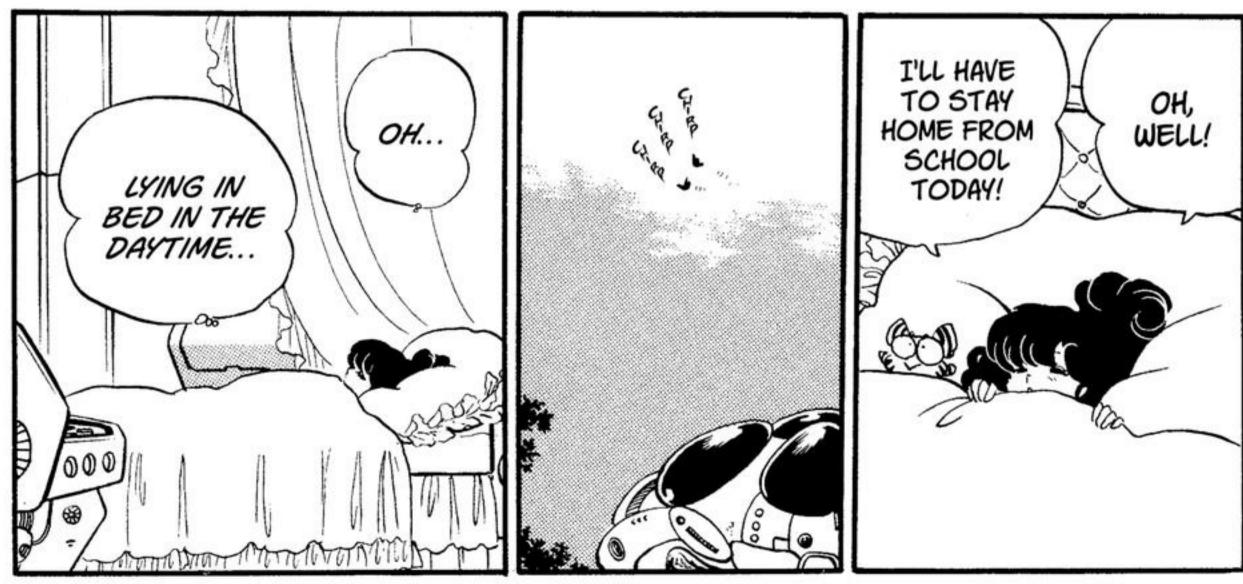




## CHAPTER 17: HOUSE CALL

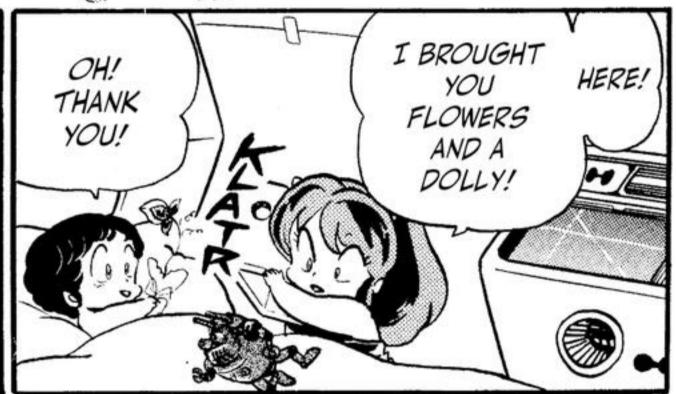


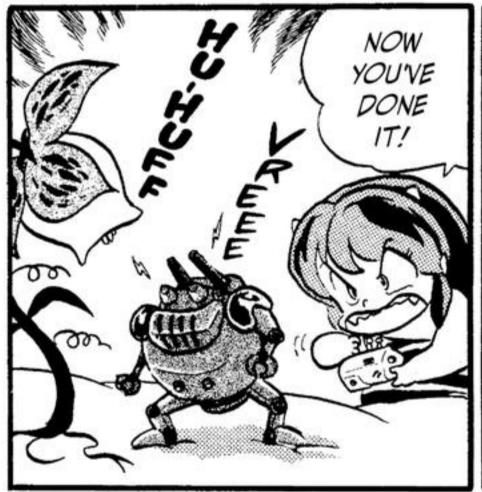






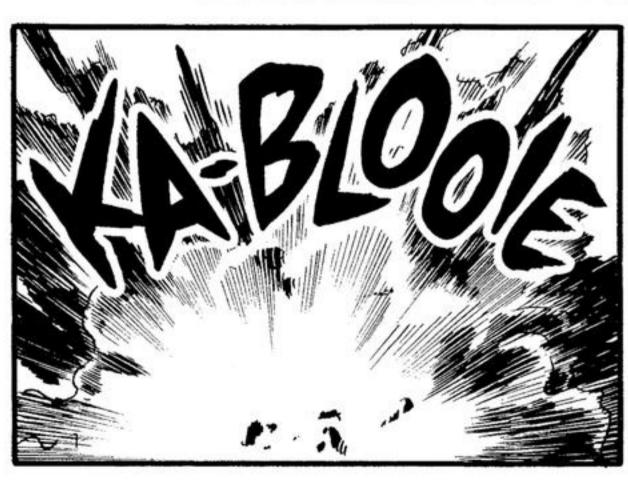


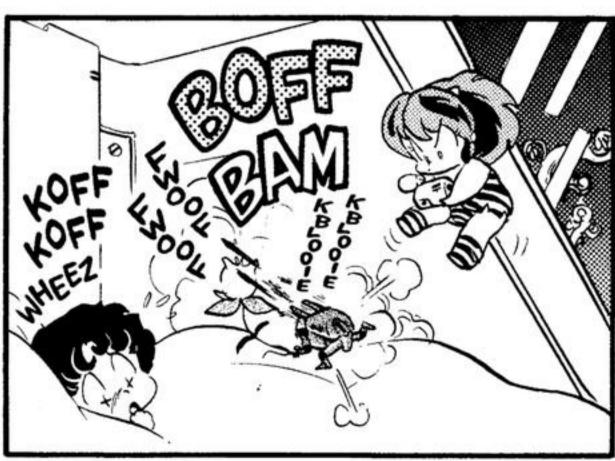












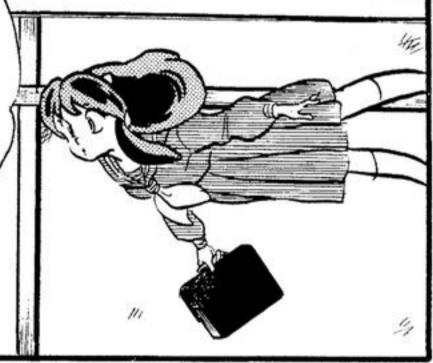








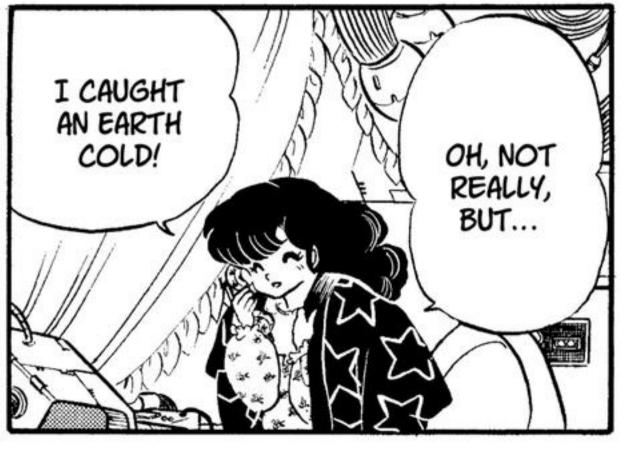




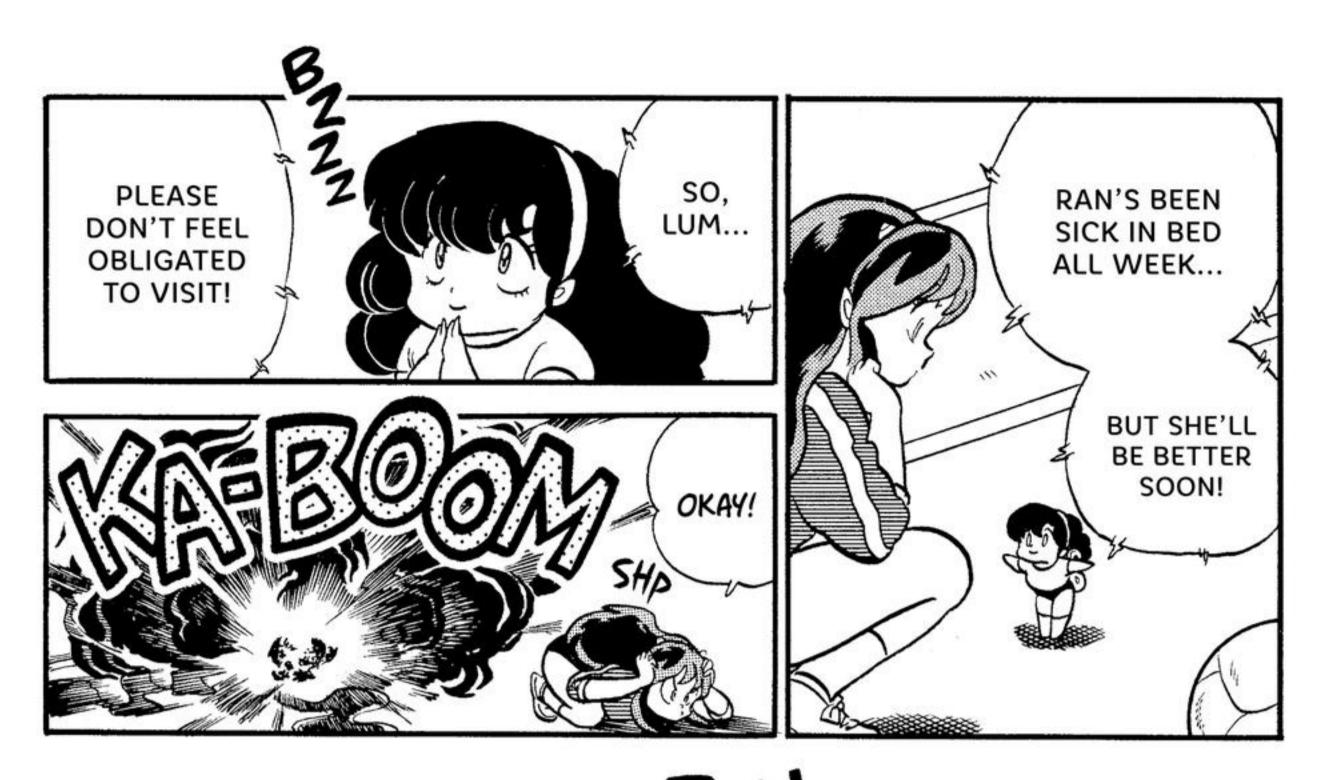




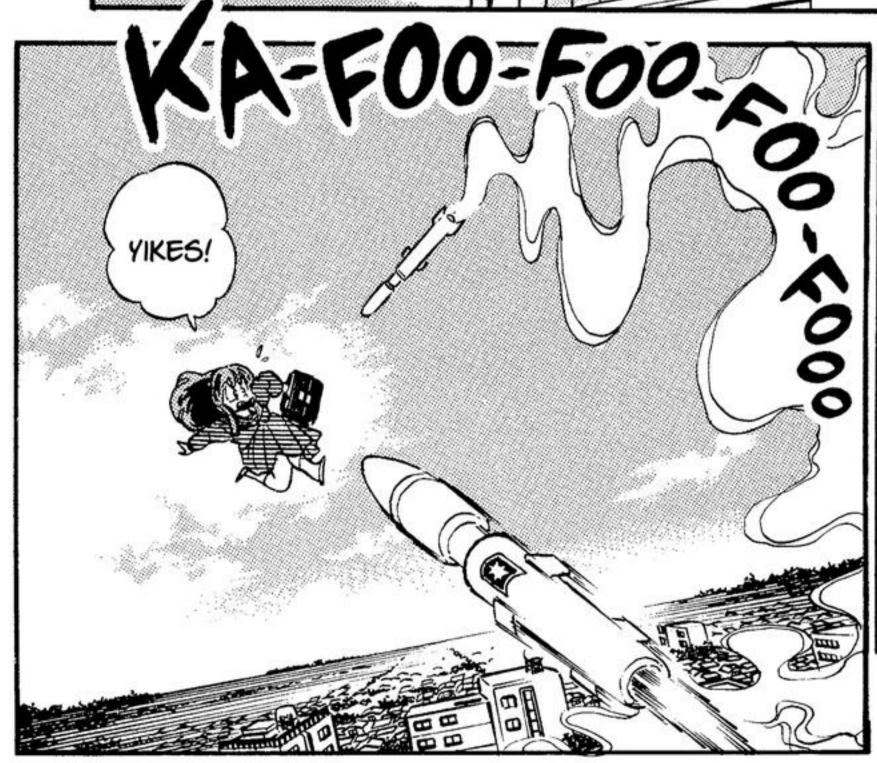




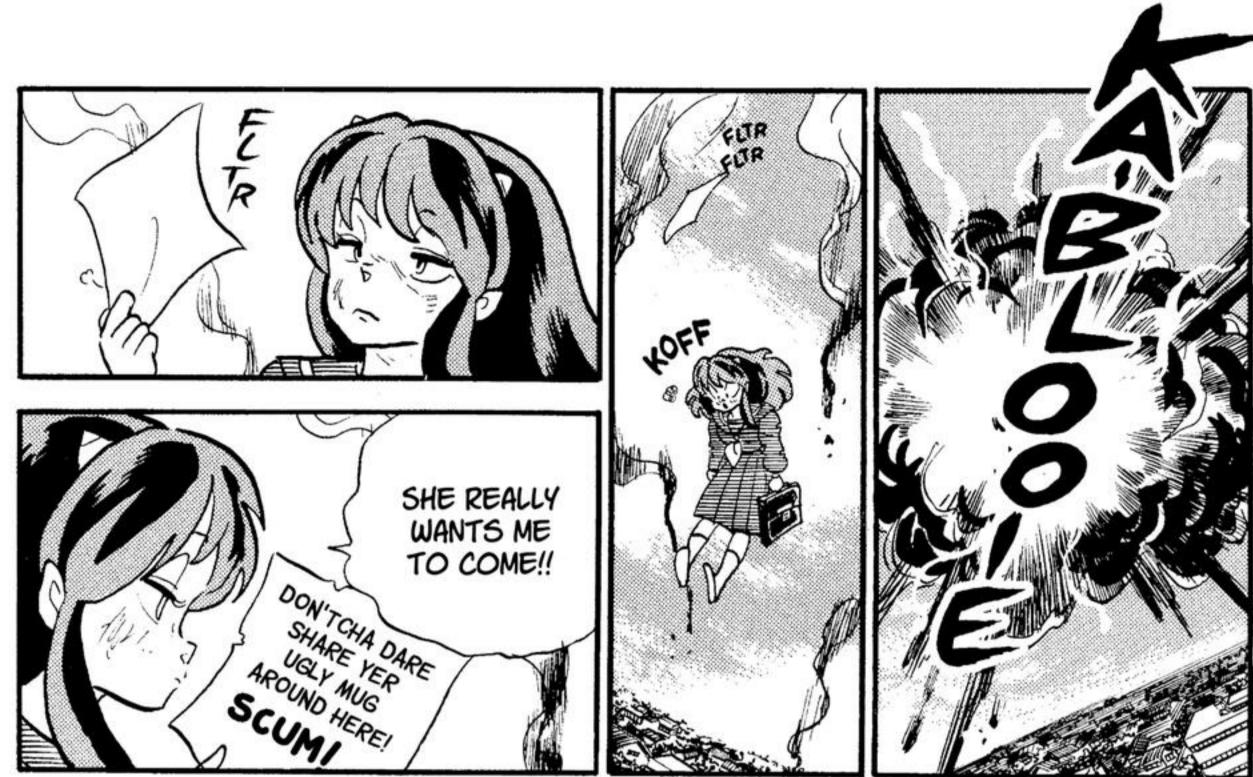


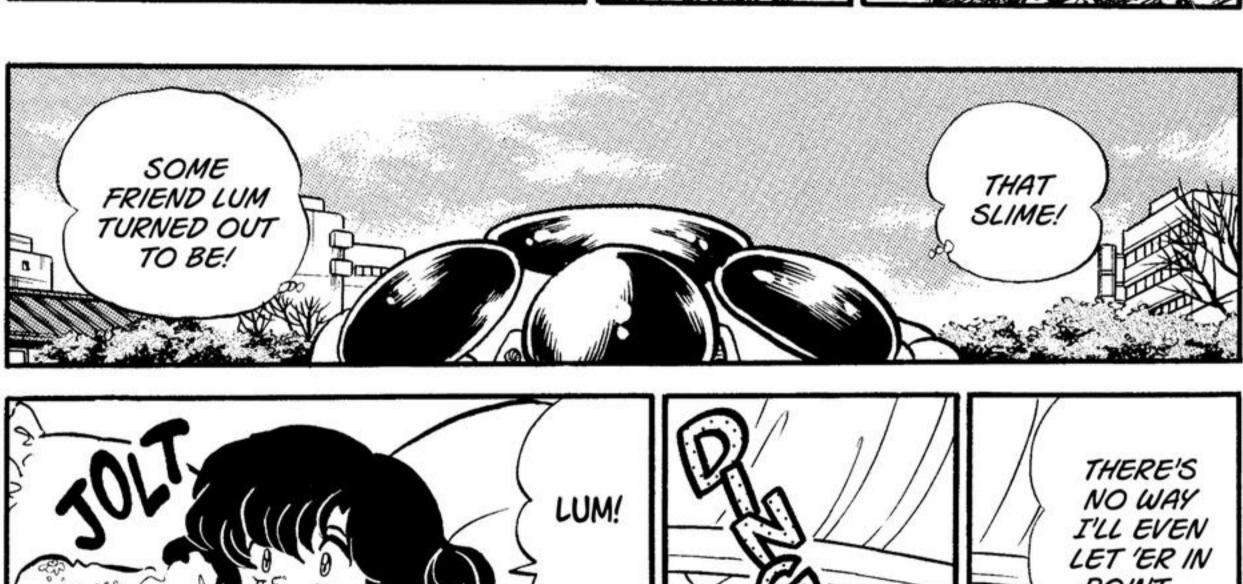
































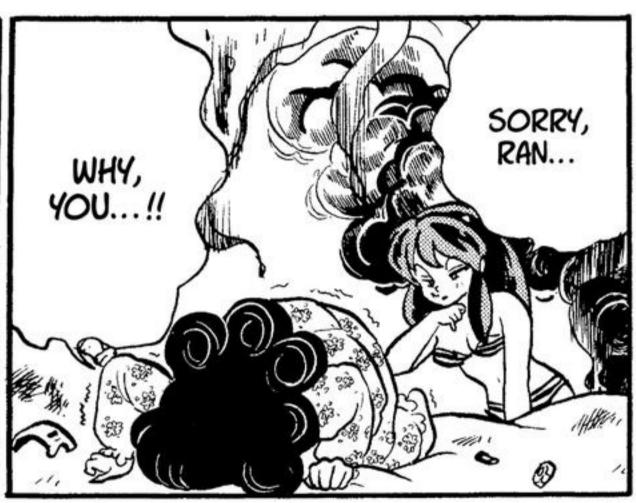




















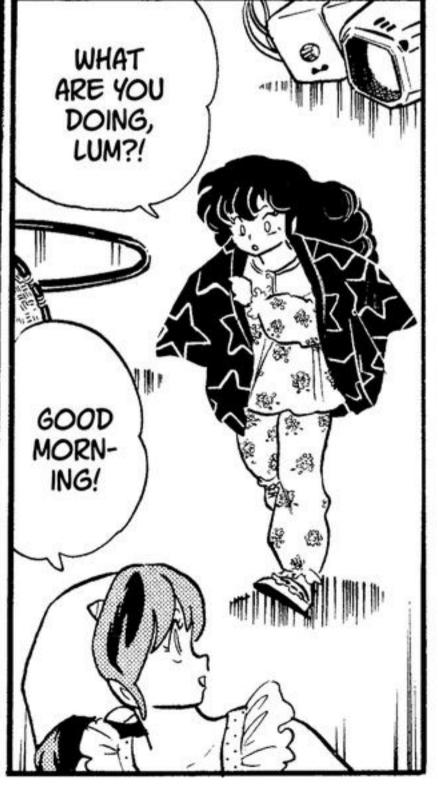


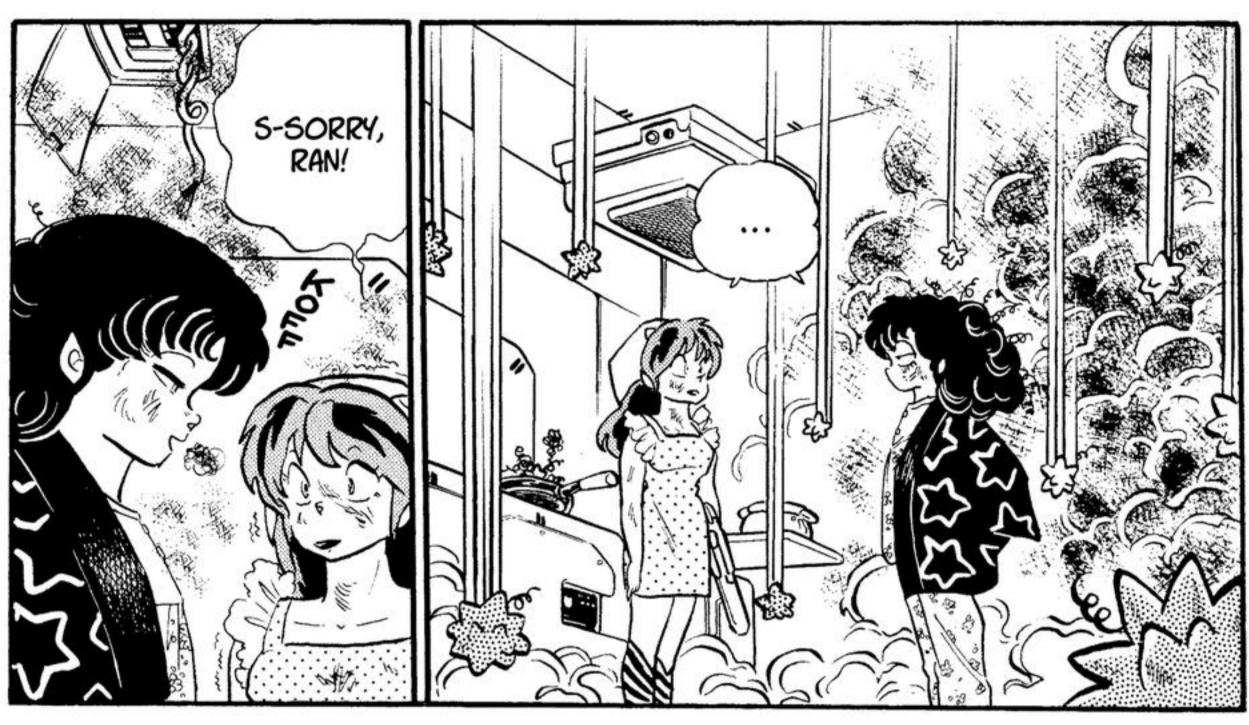




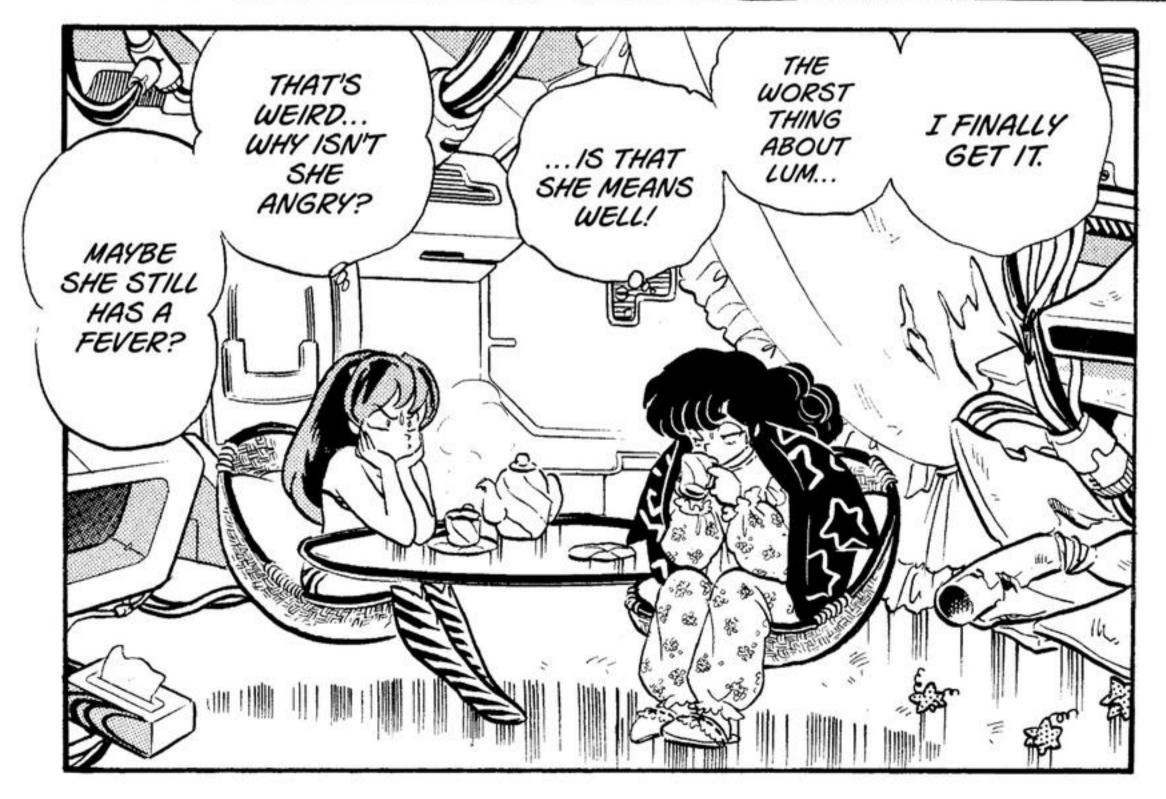




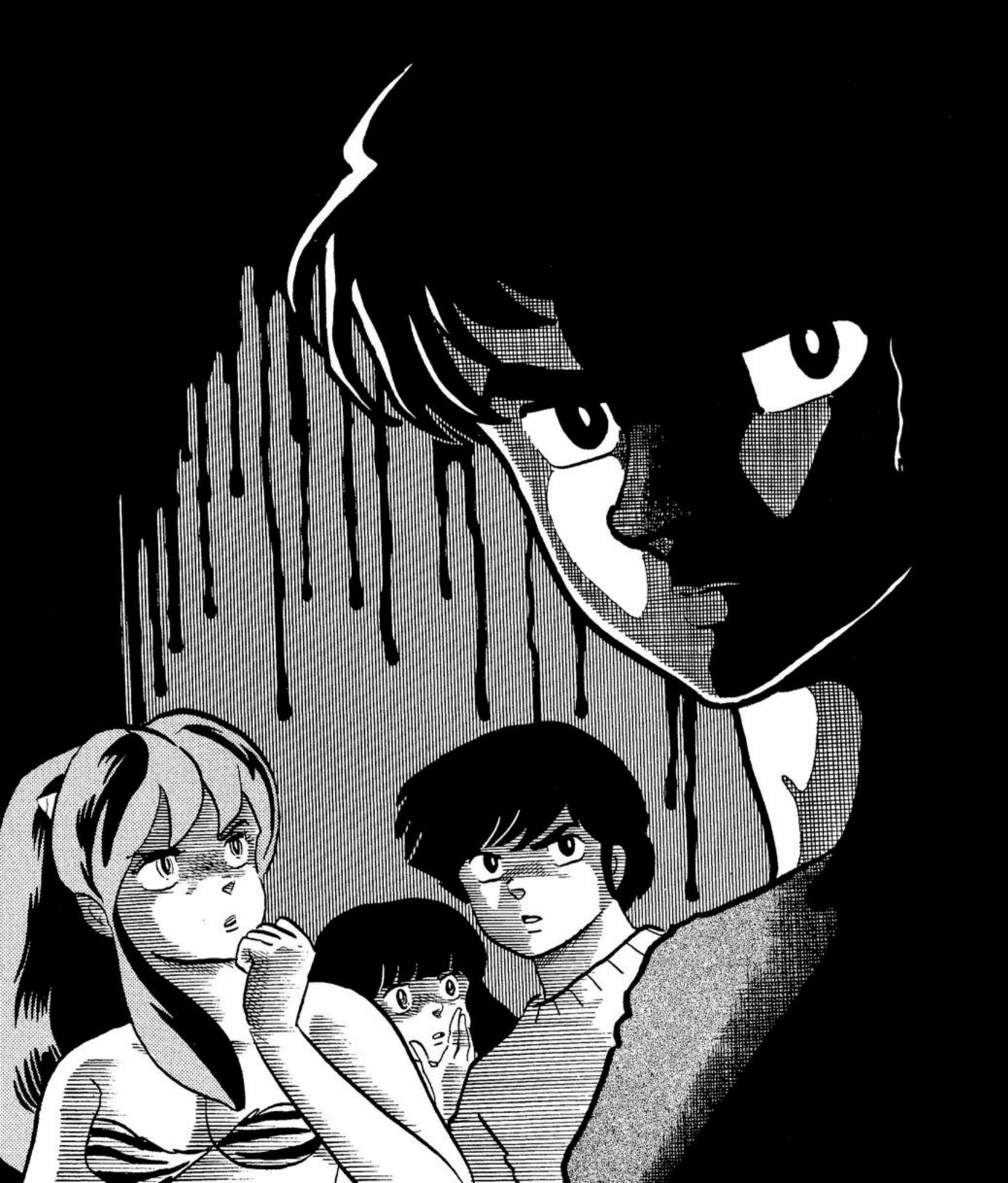


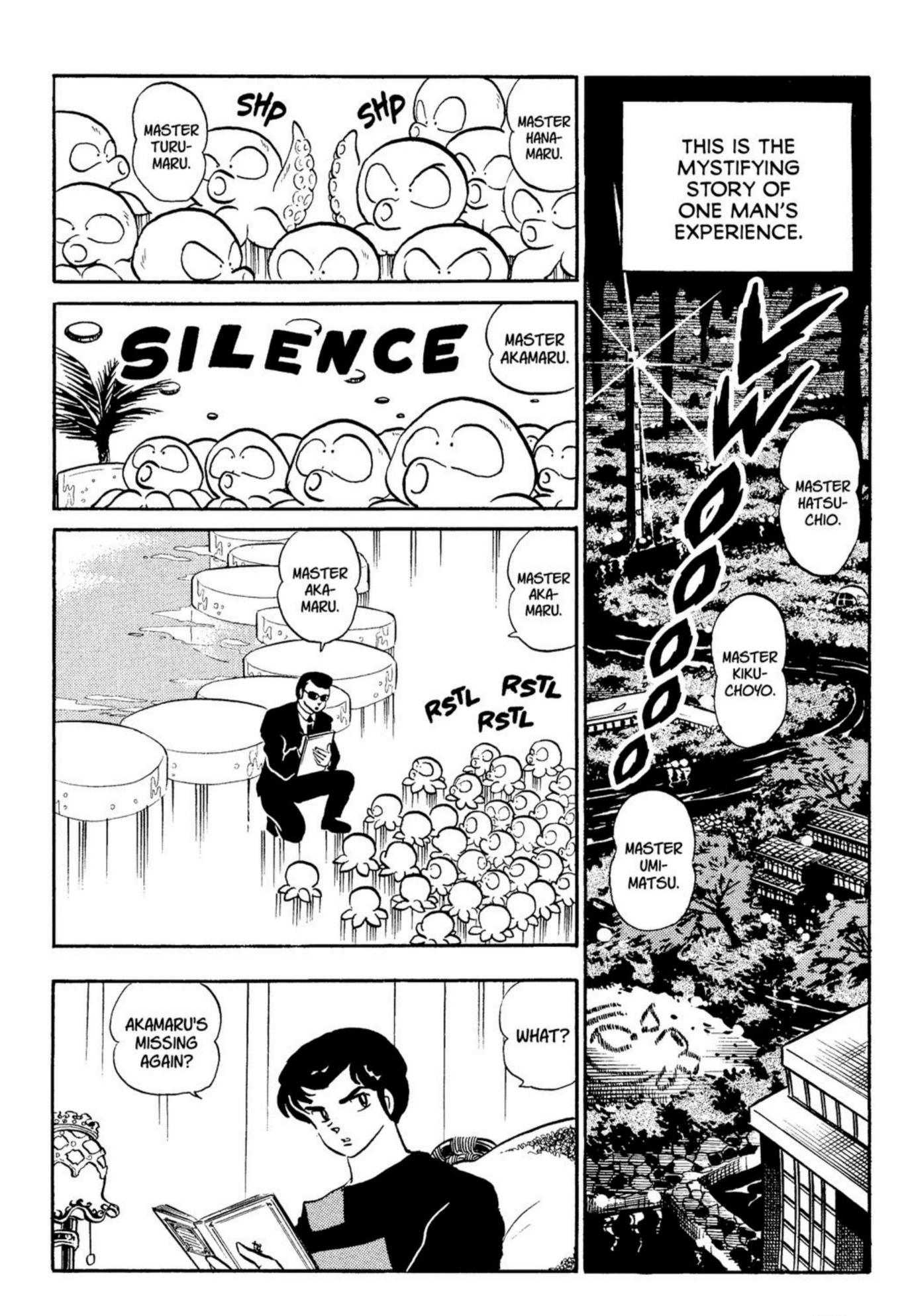






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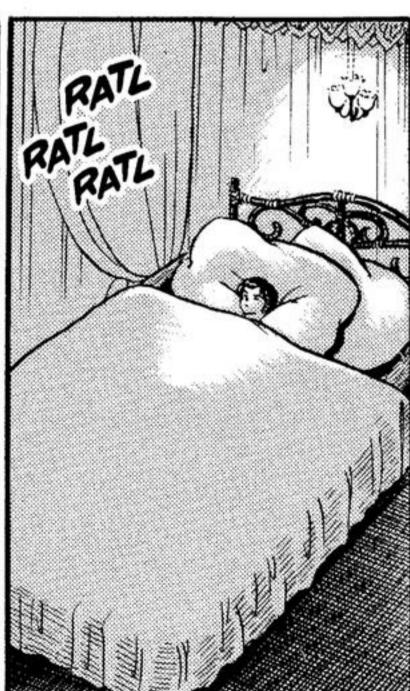










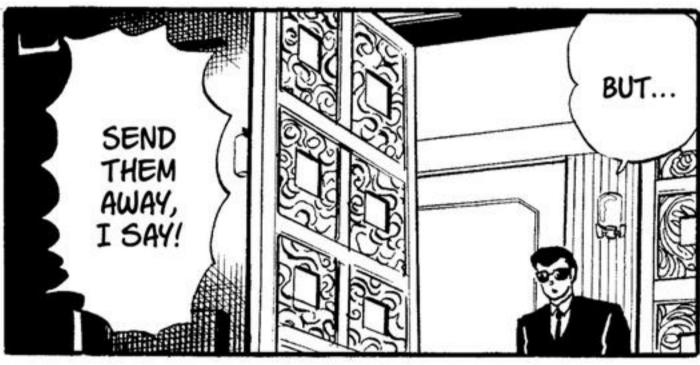








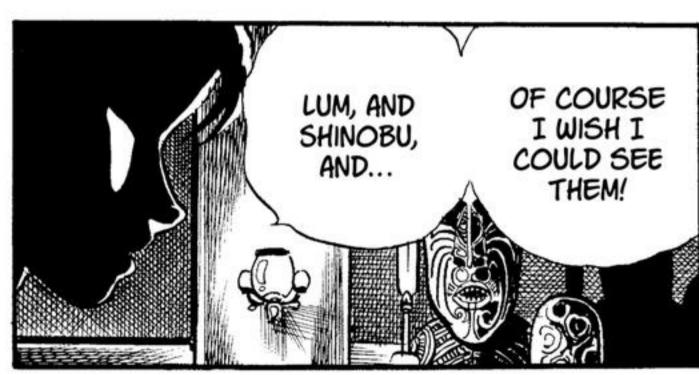












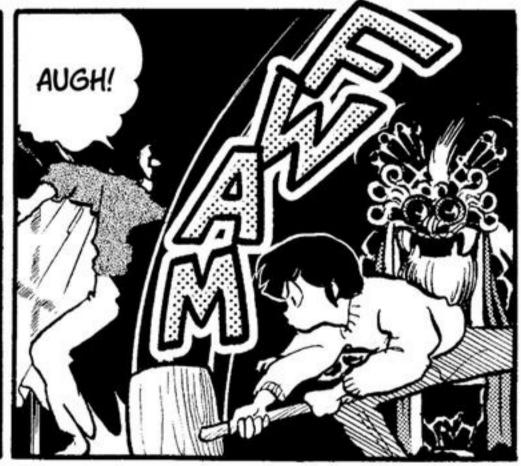




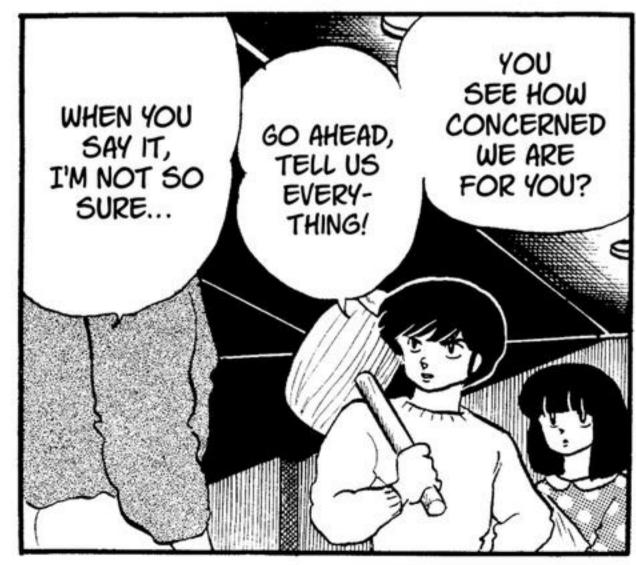






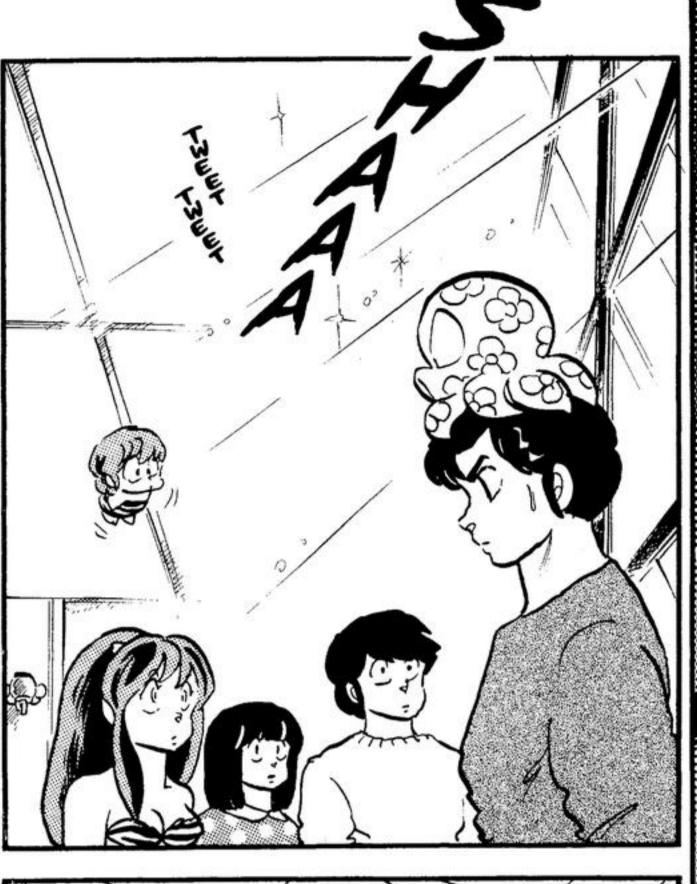




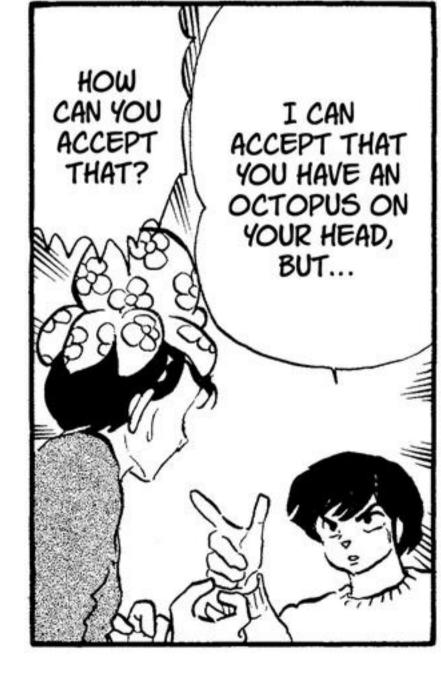








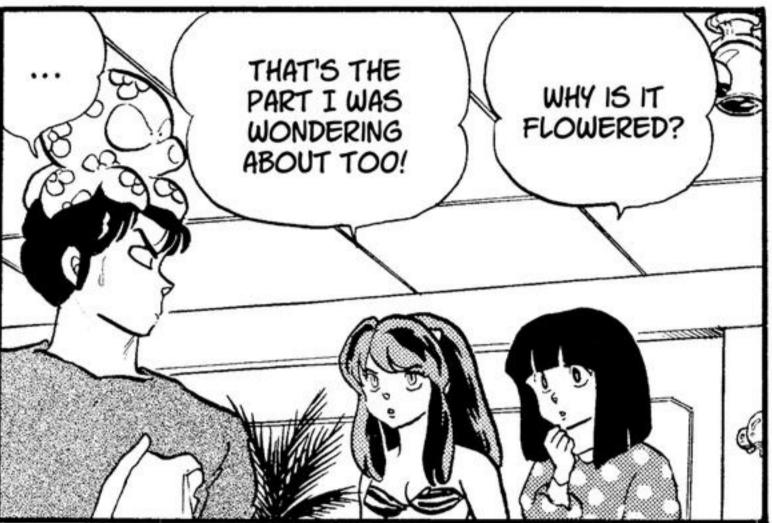




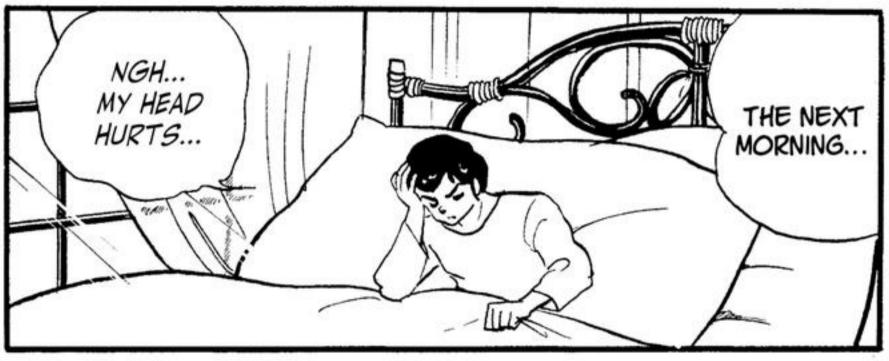
















































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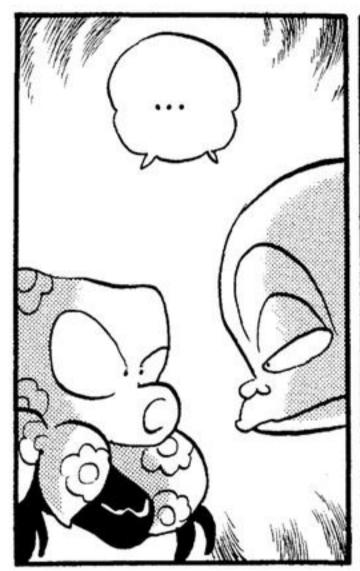
















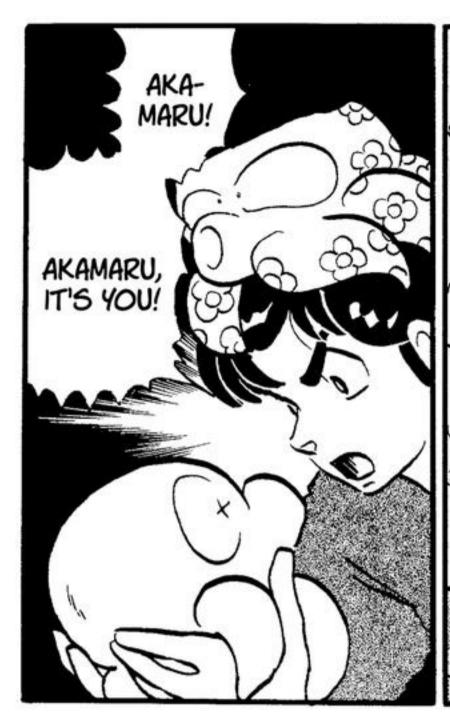














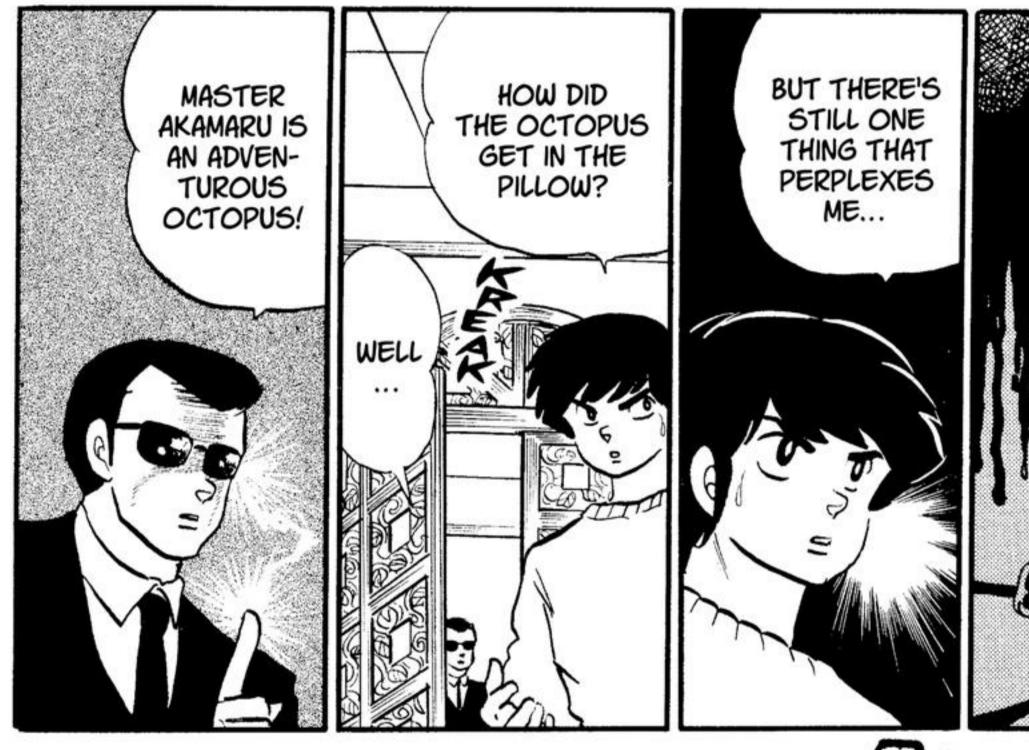








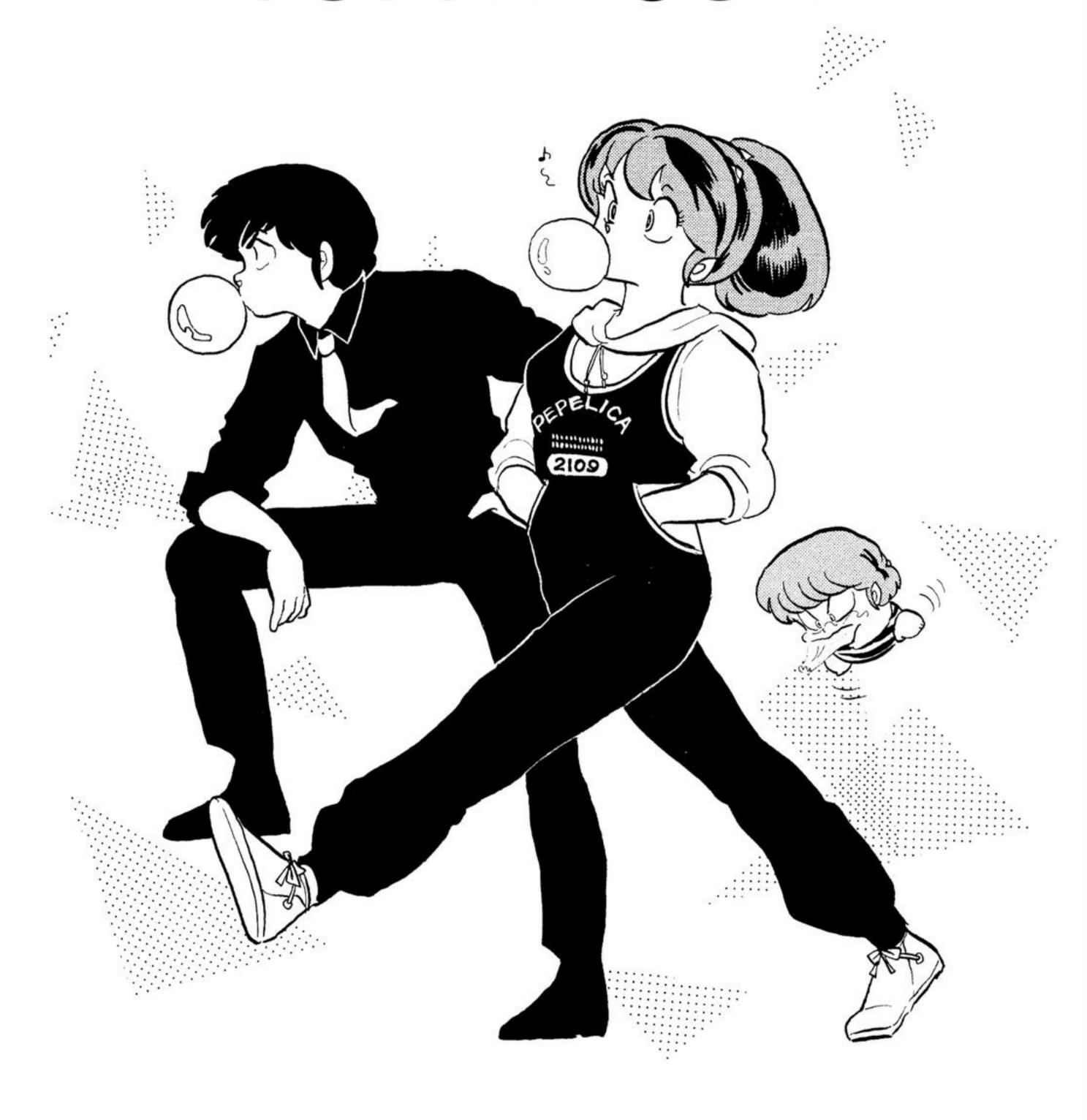


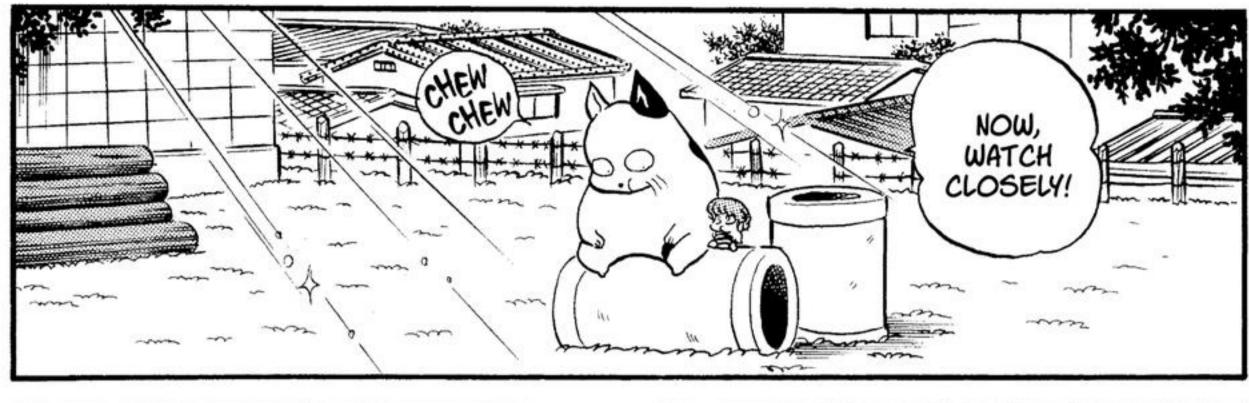


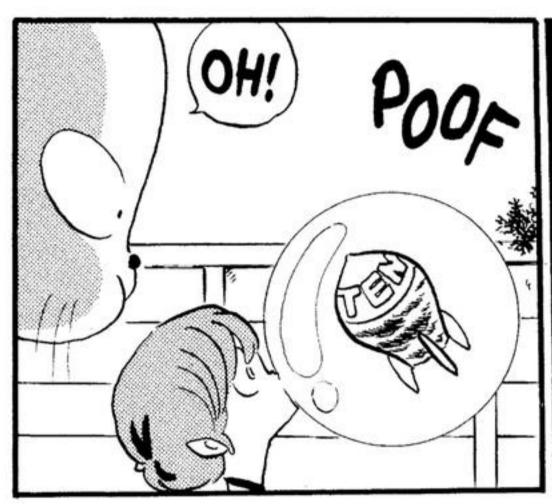




## CHAPTER 19: FANTASY BUBBLE GUM



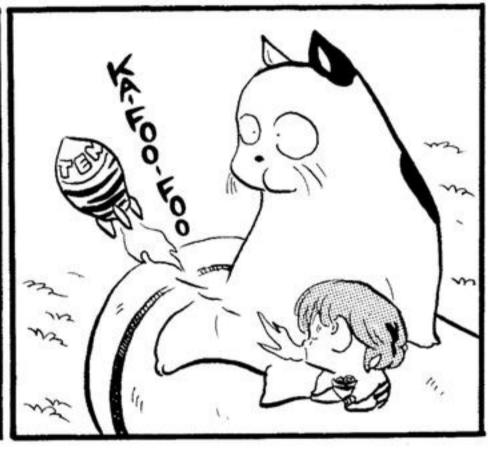


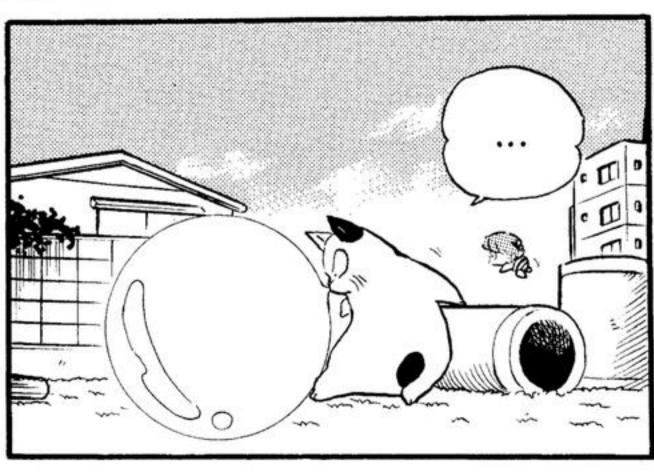


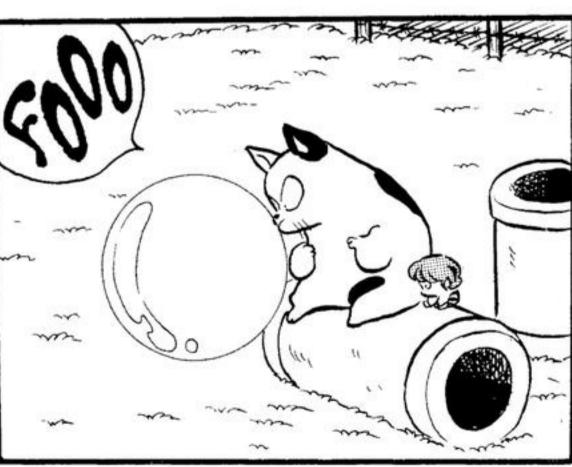






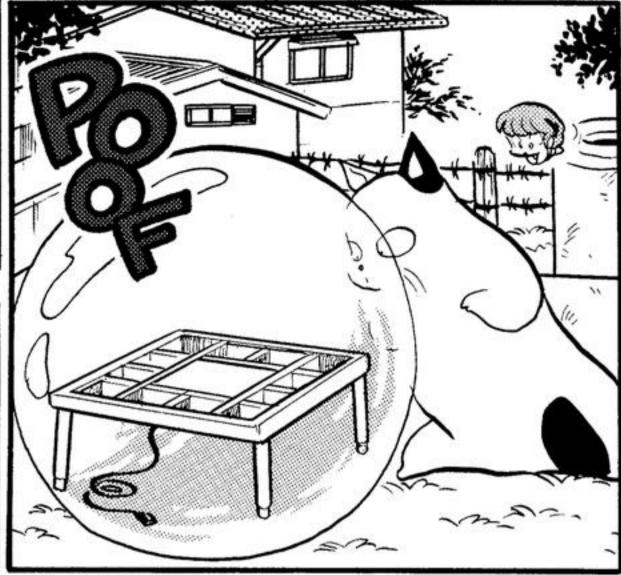


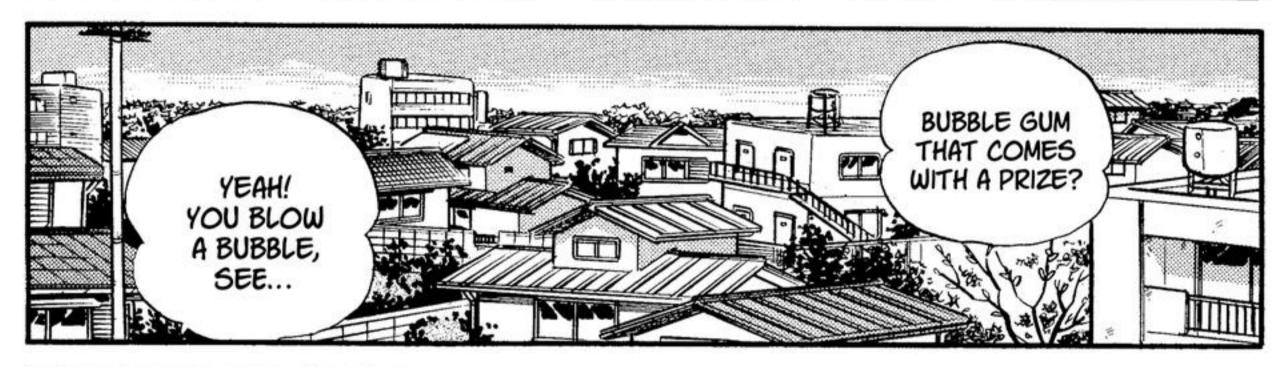


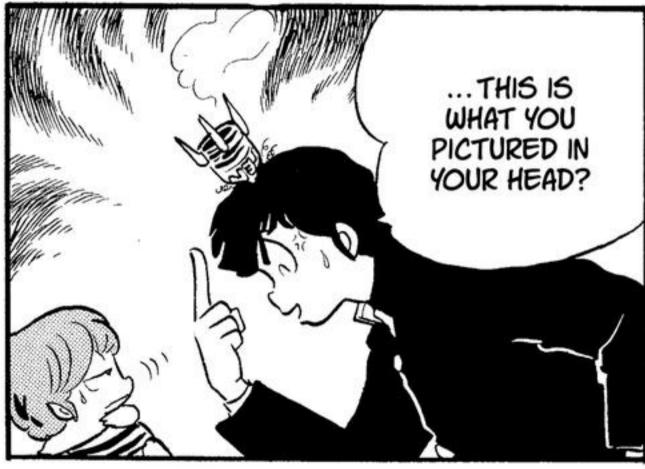








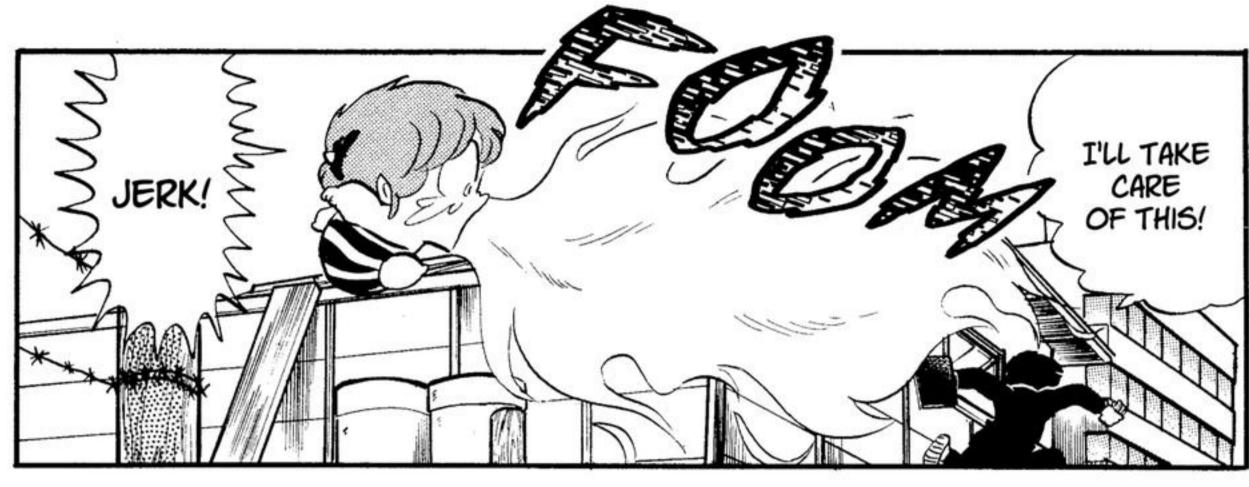


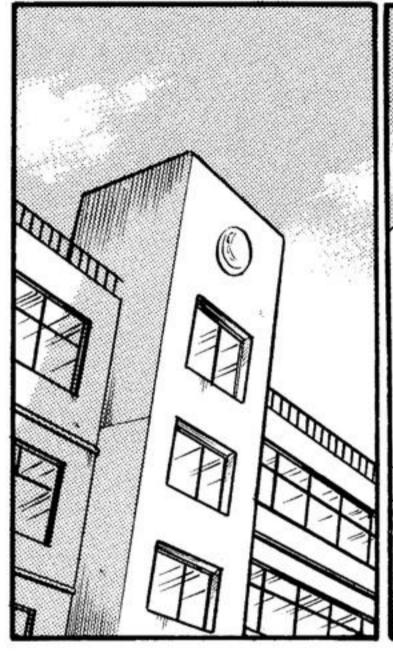






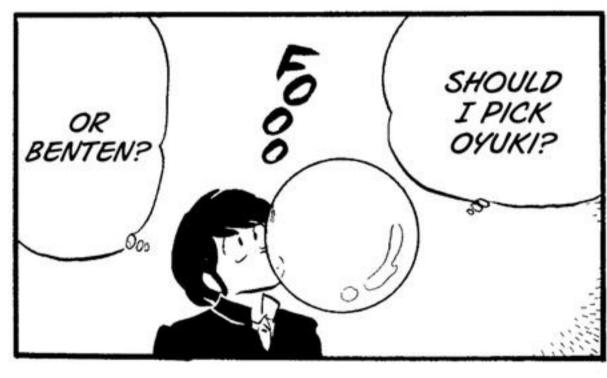


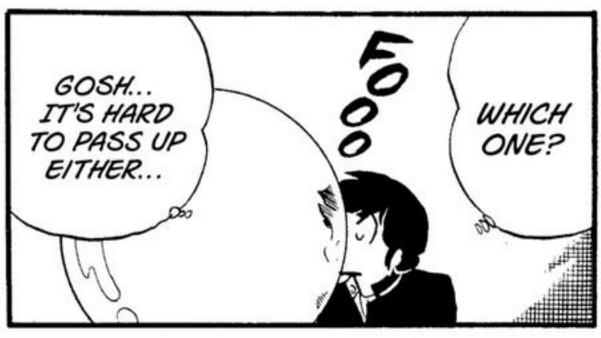






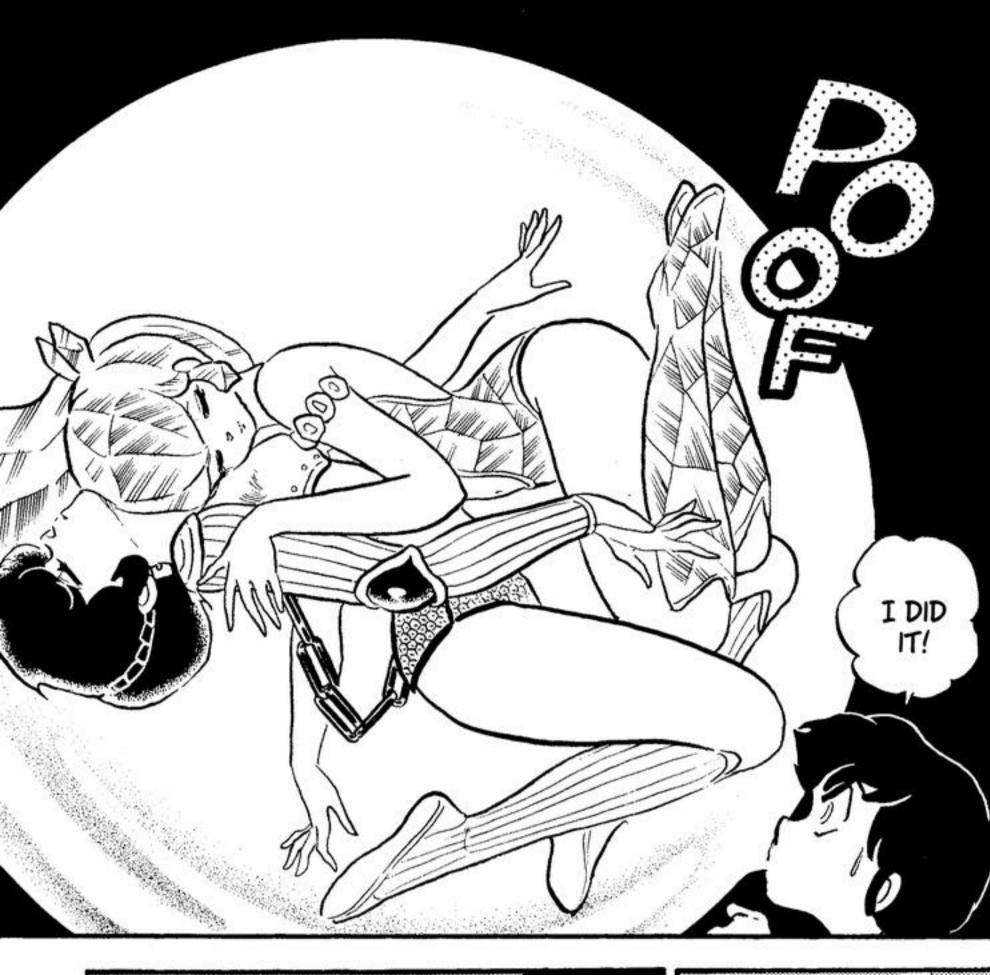




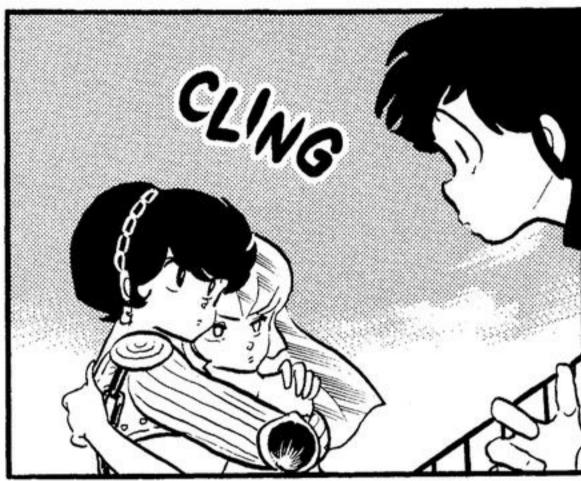


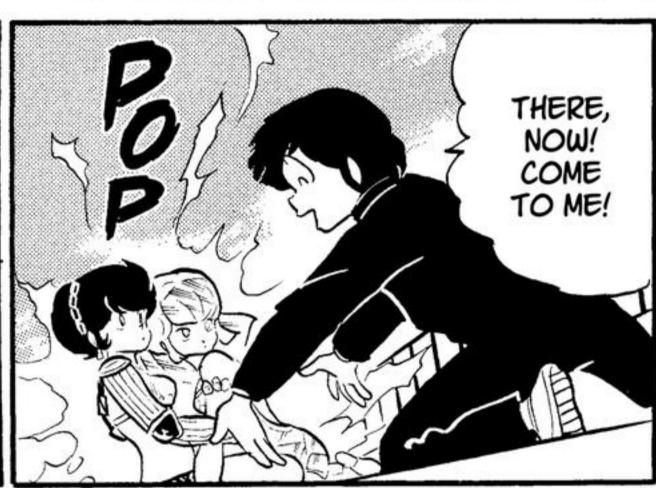


















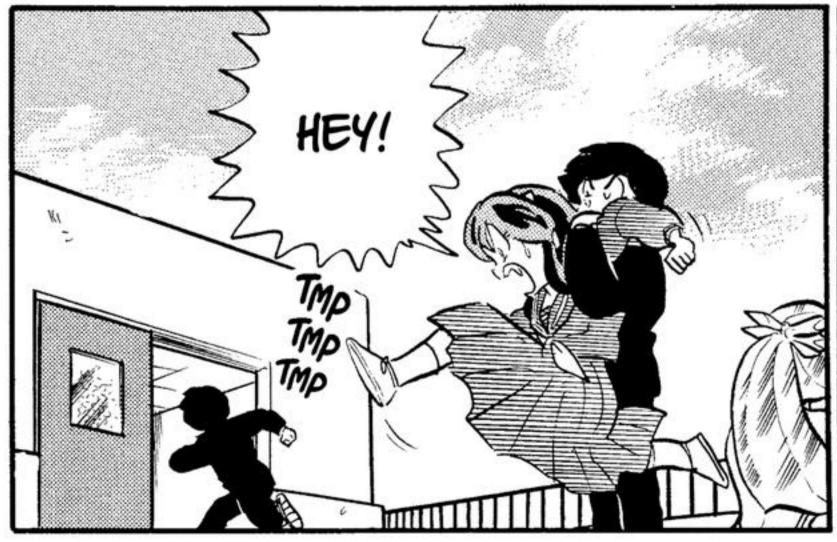




















































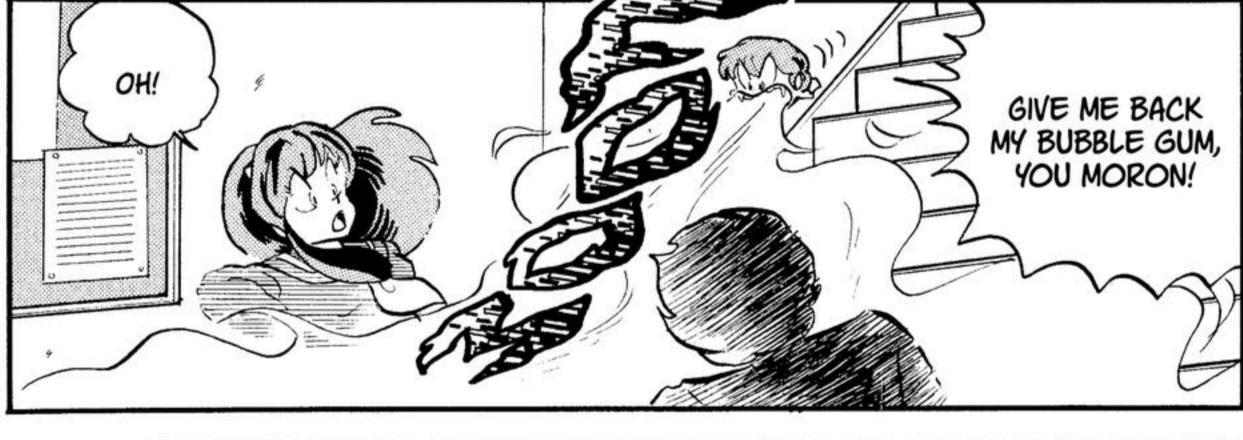


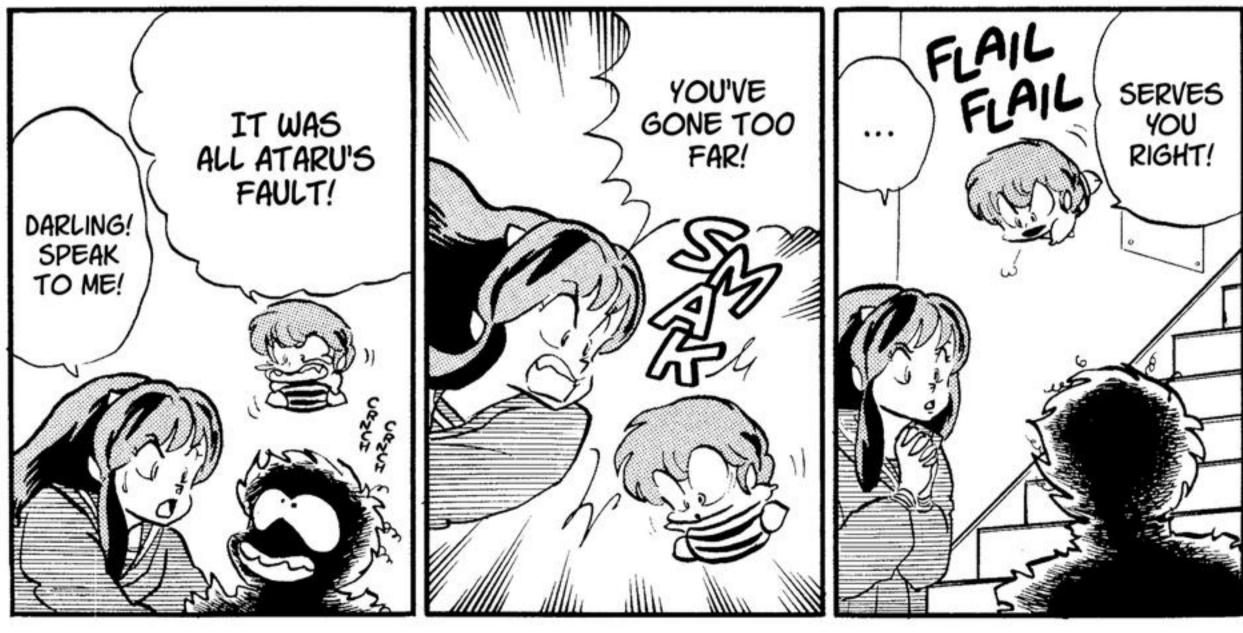








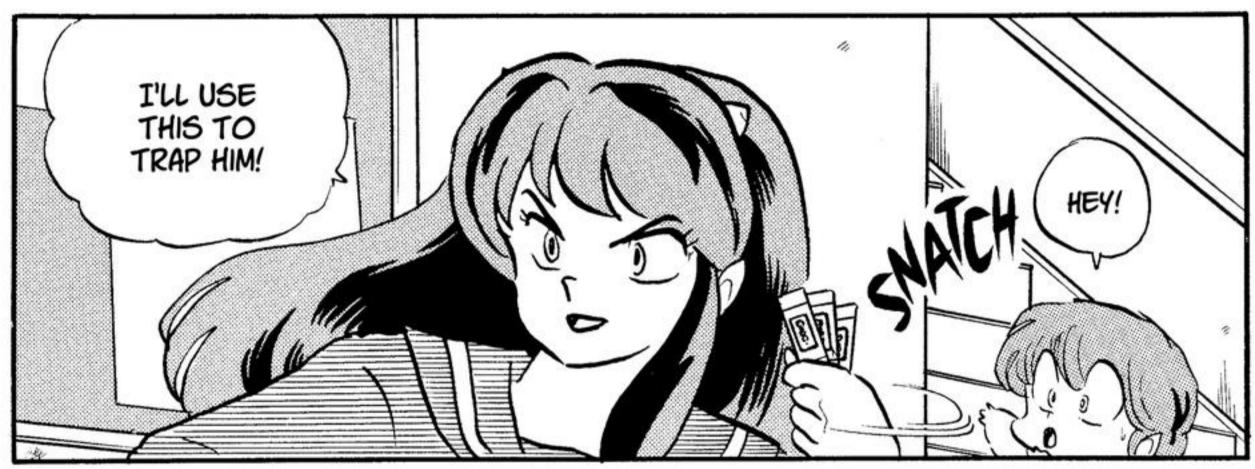
















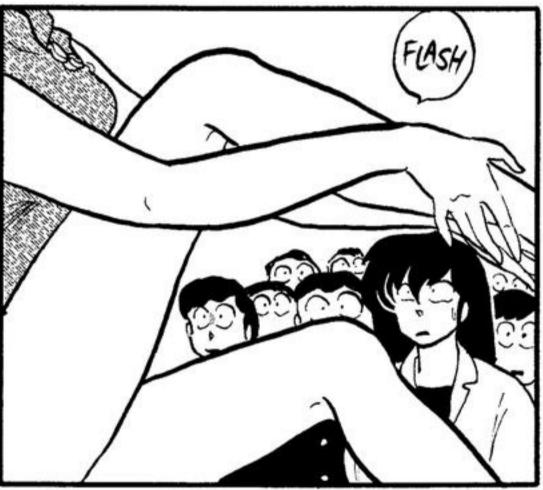


























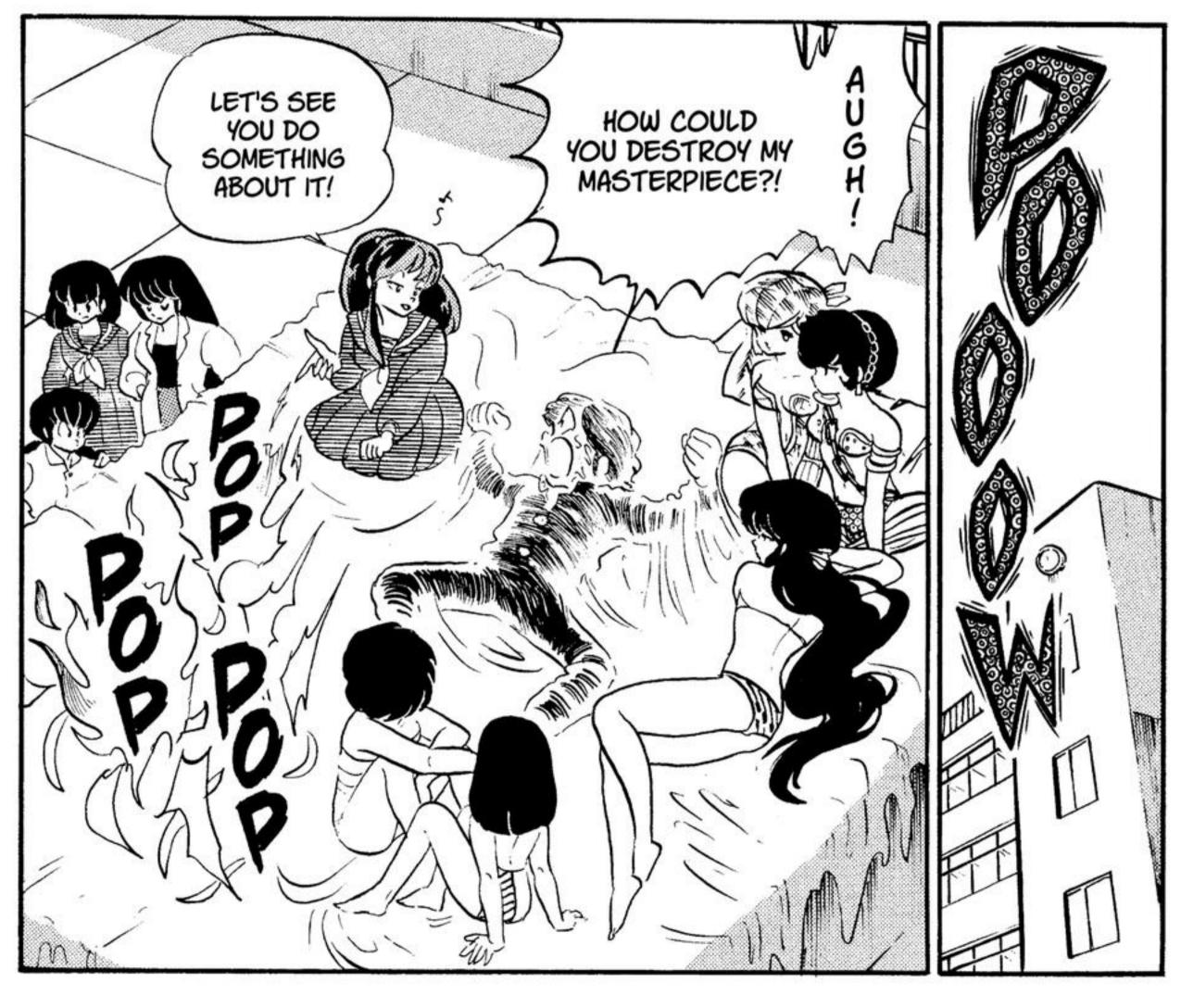








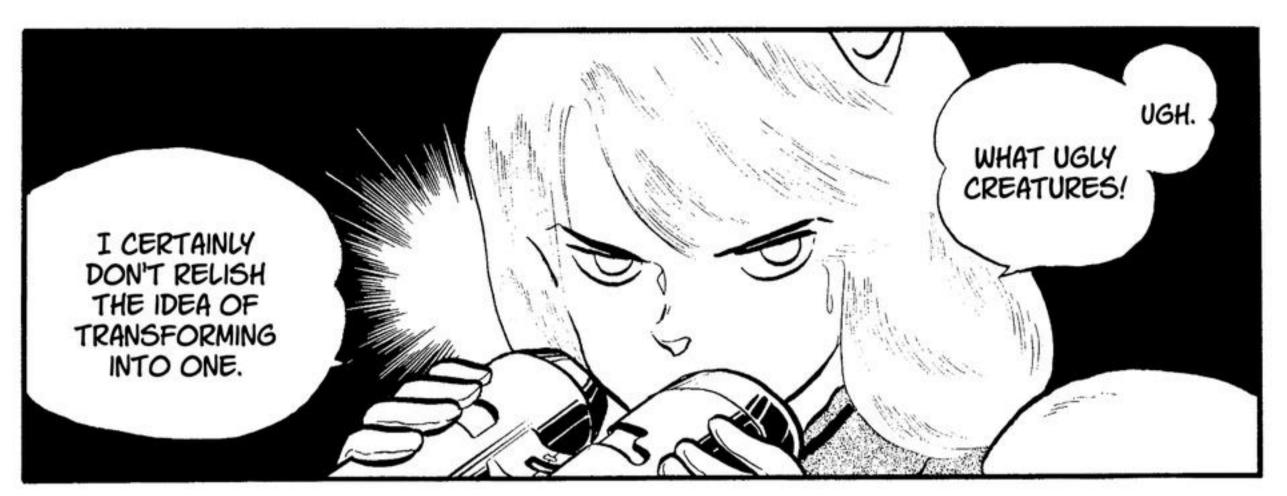




## CHAPTER 208 AUEN INVADERS





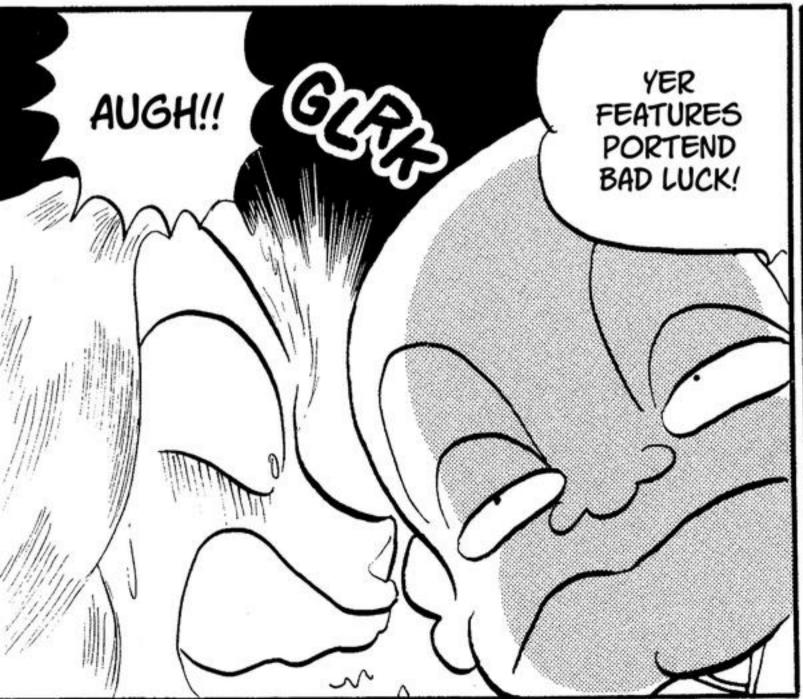
























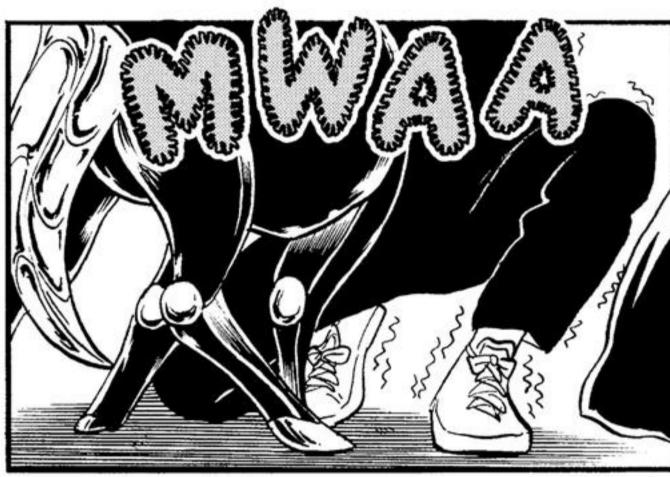


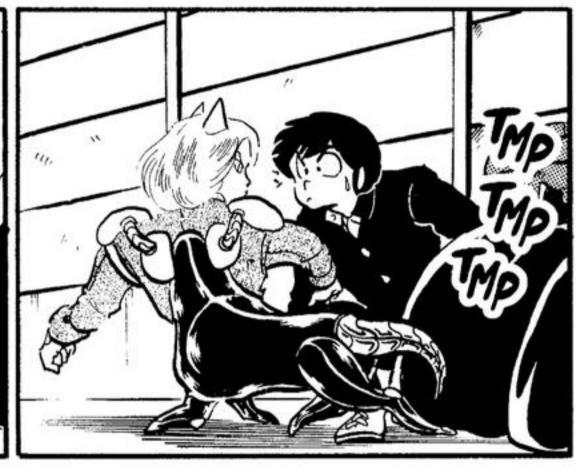








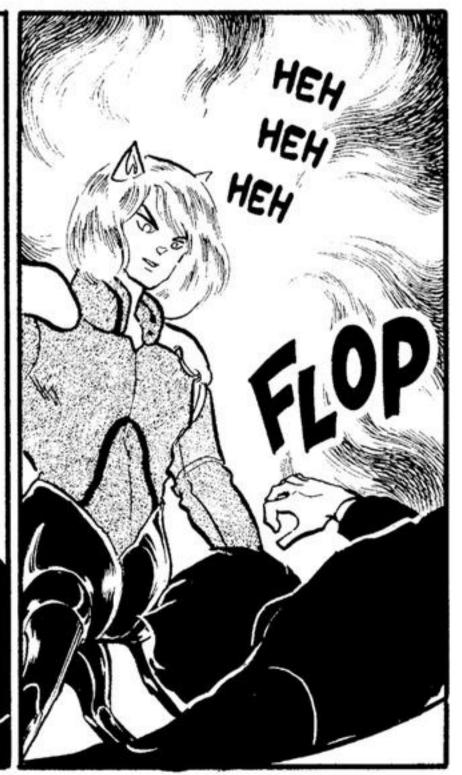




















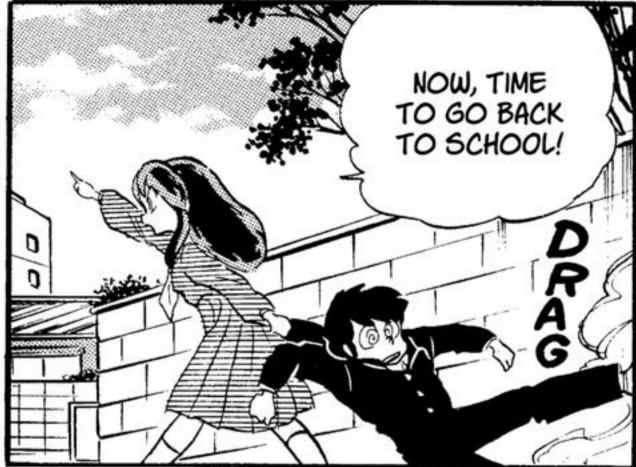




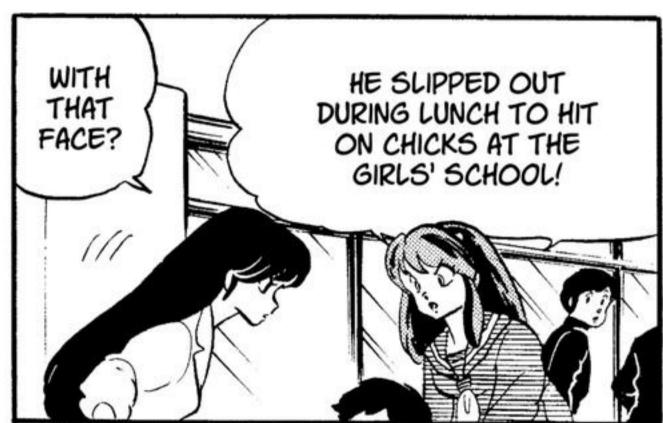




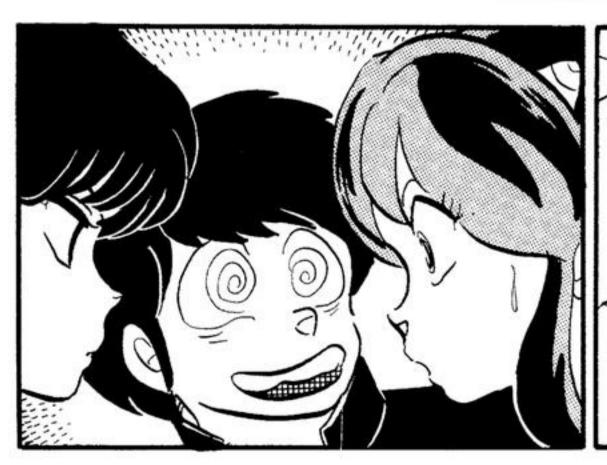








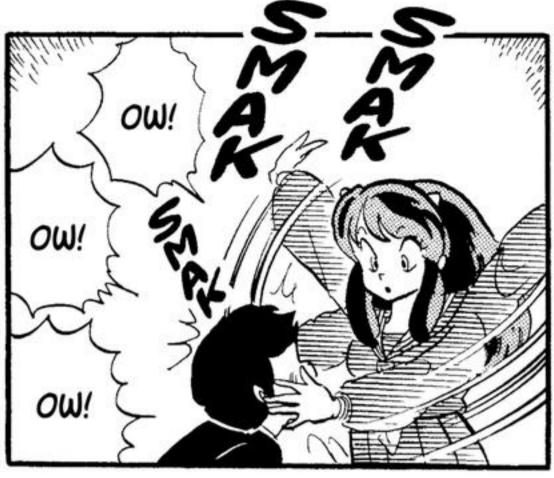


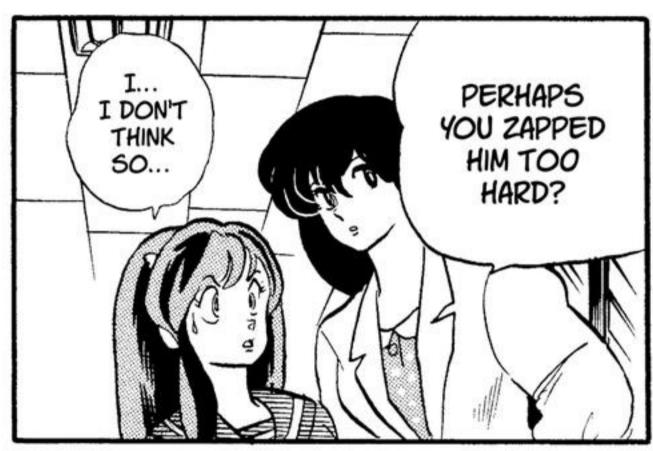








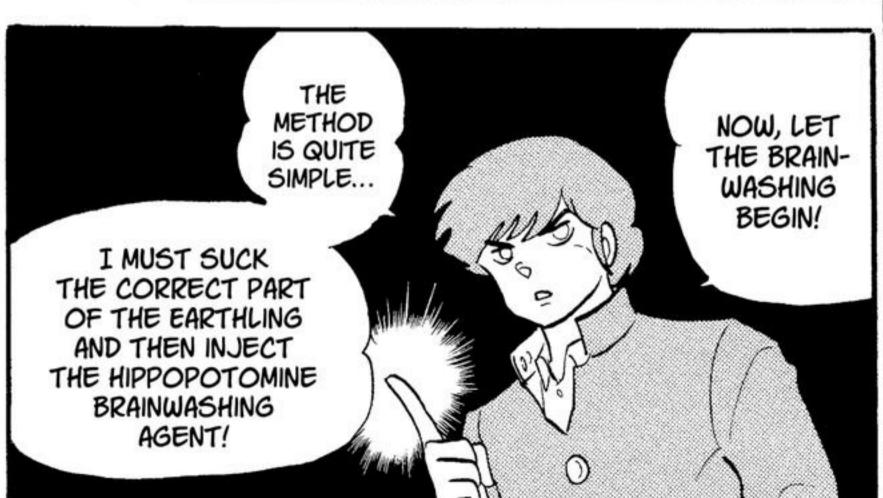




































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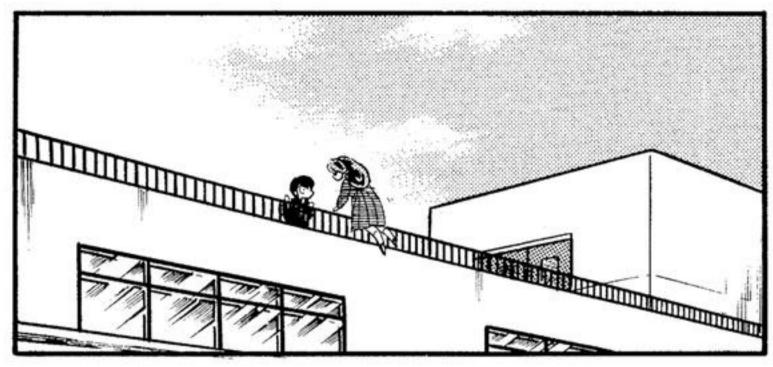














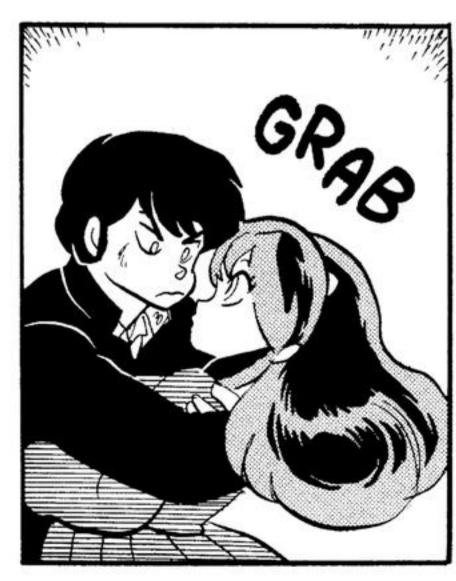










































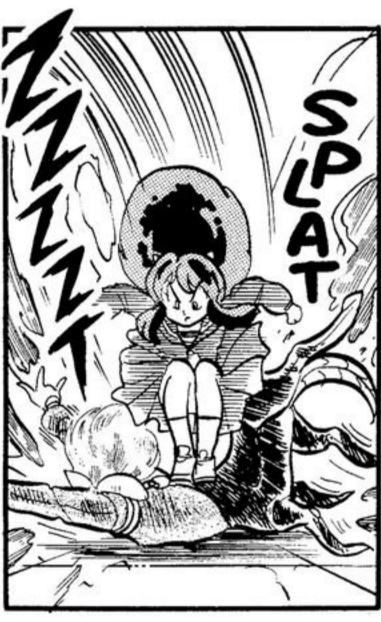


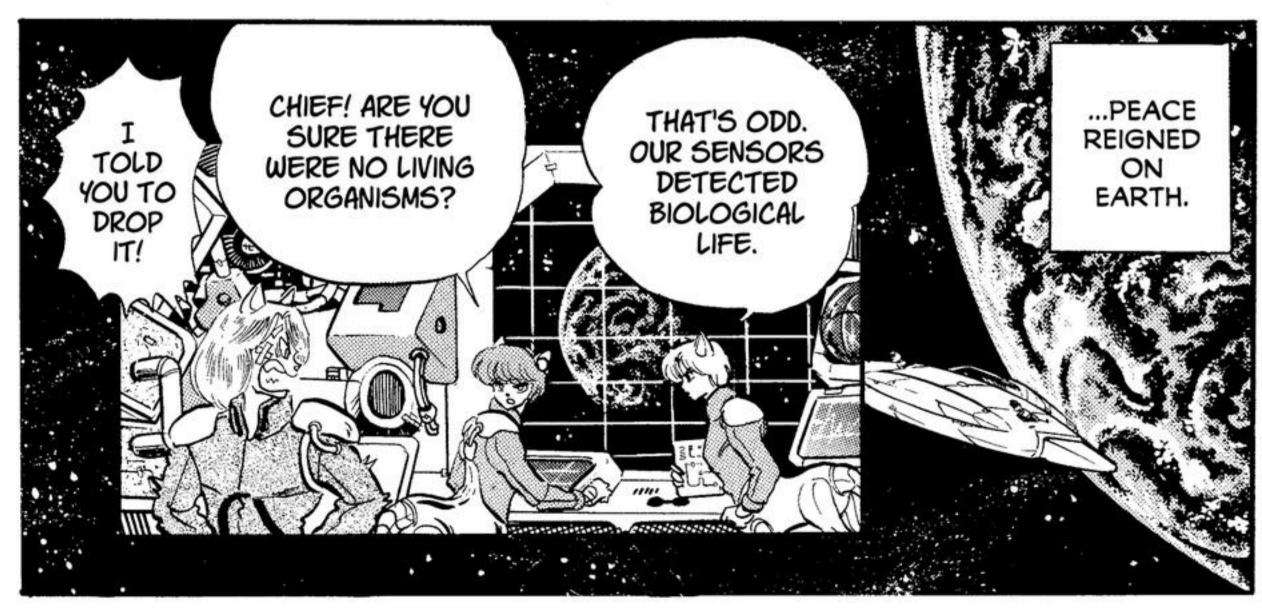








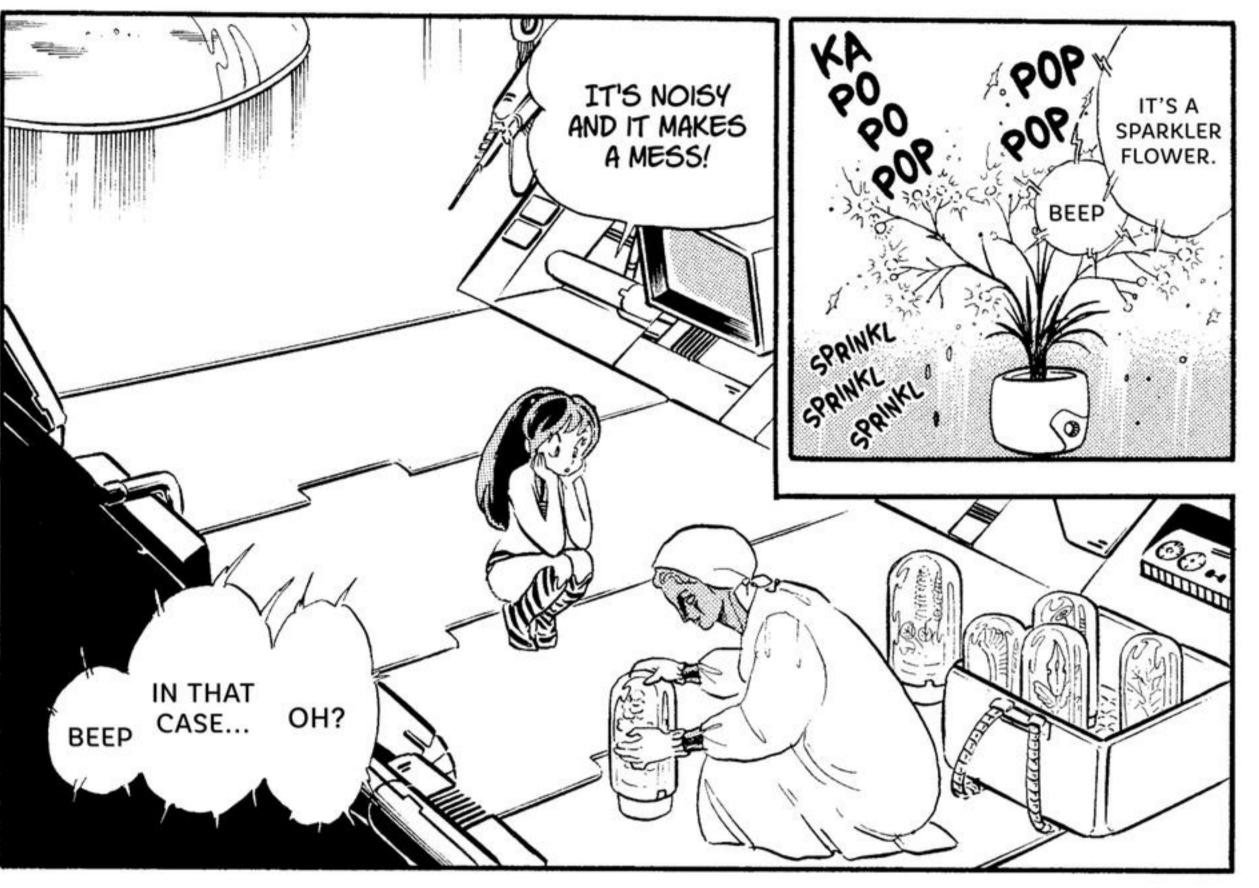


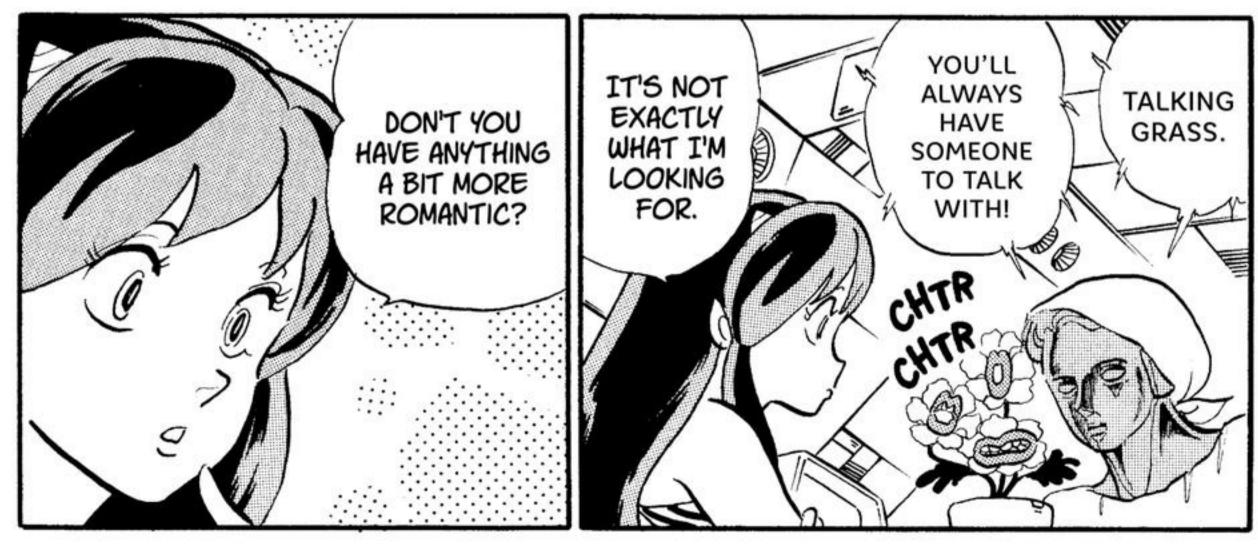


## CHAPTER 21: LOVE'S SERVANT

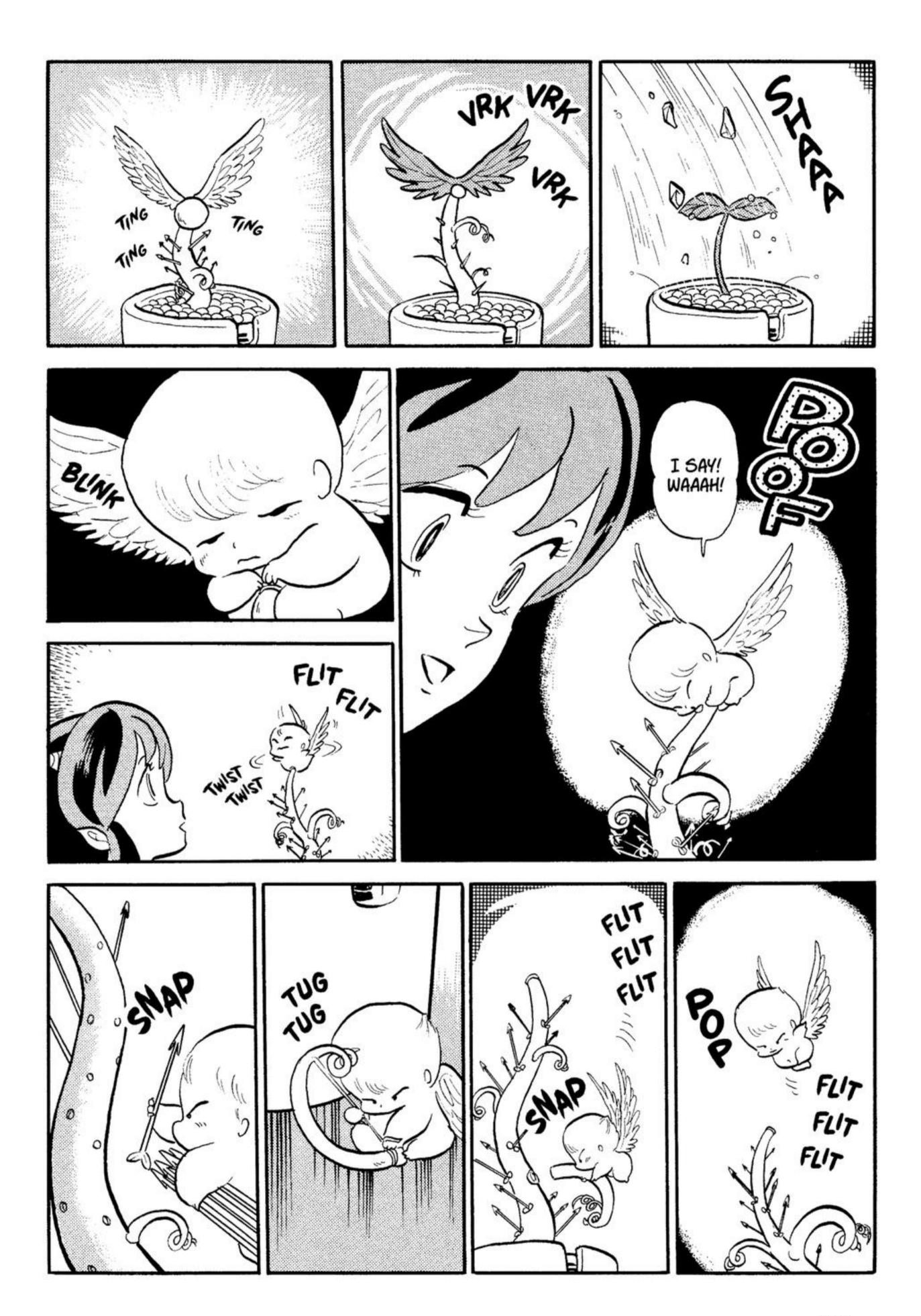


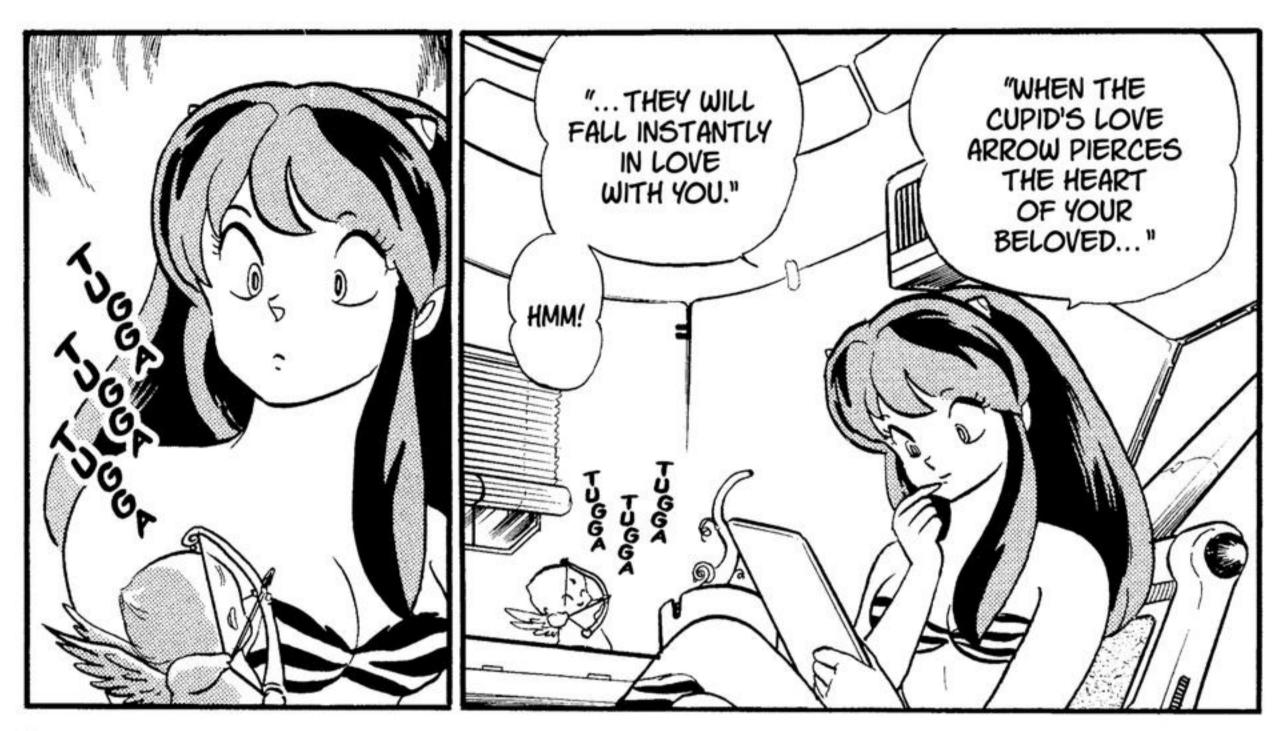












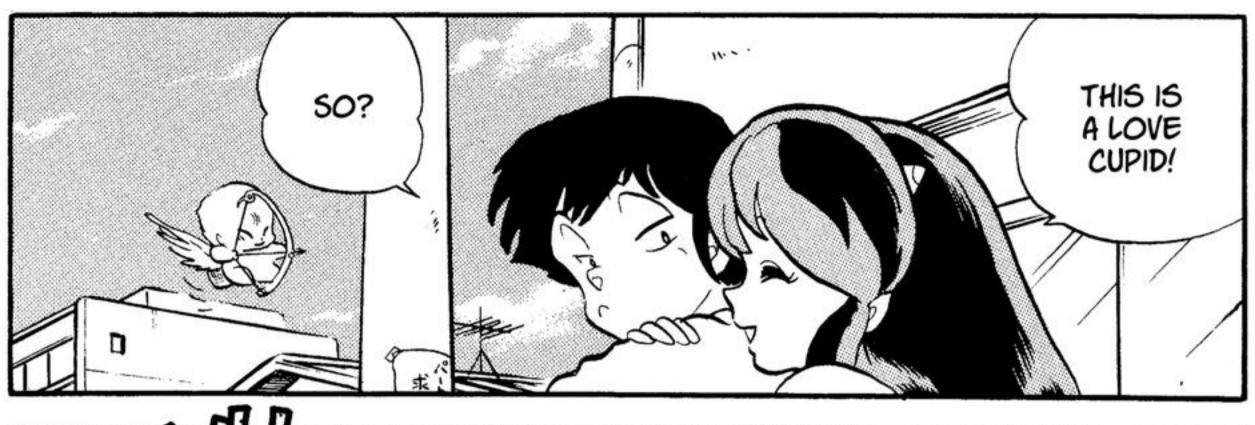


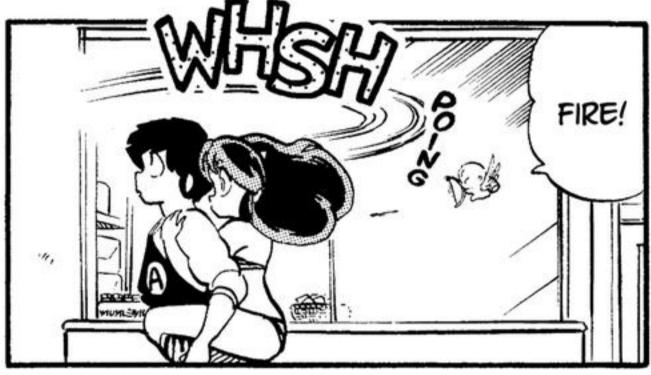






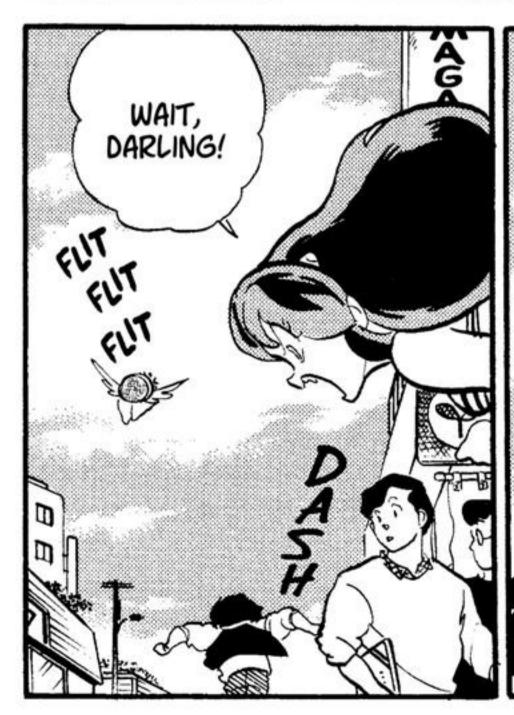


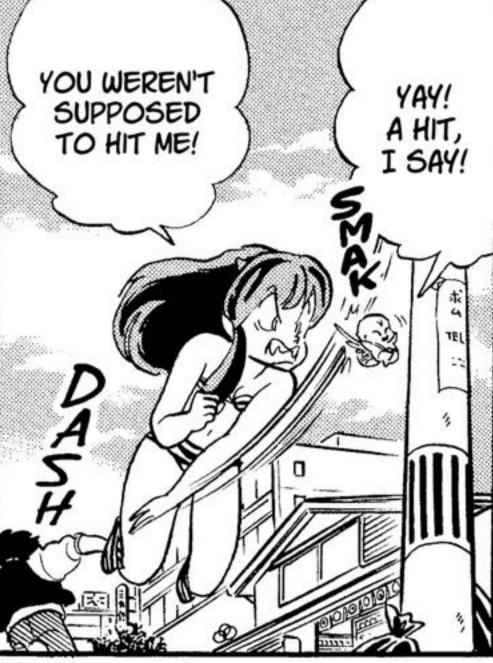




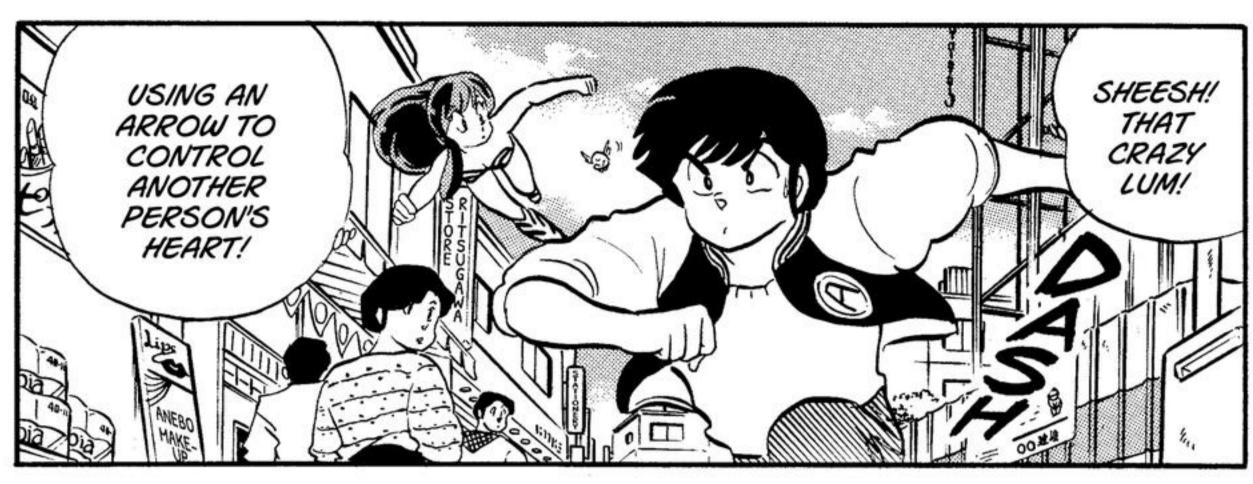




























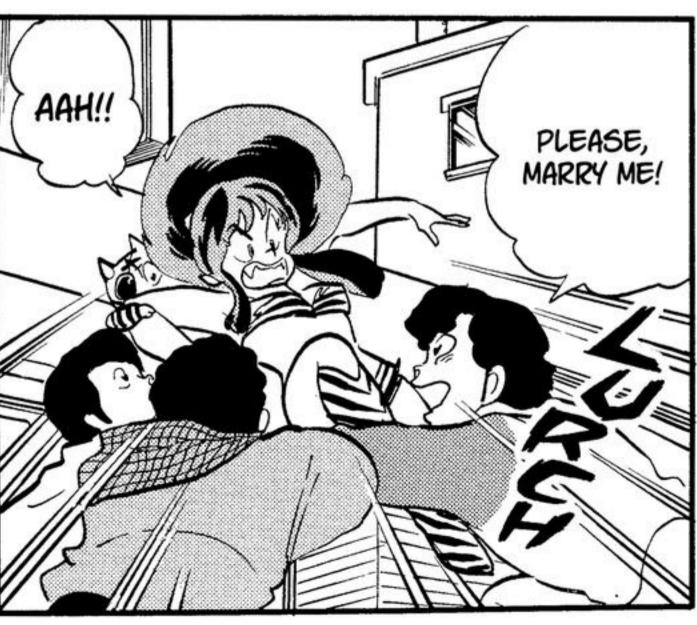




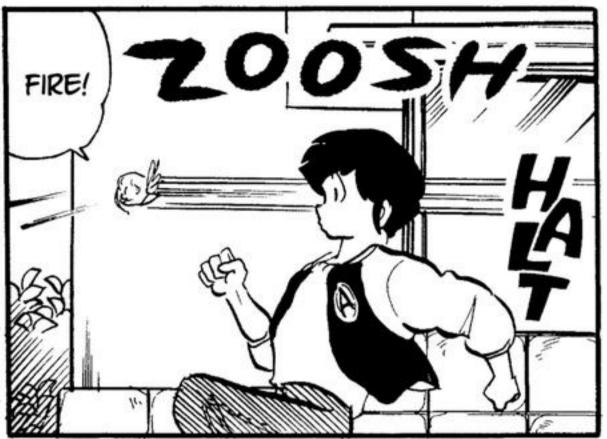


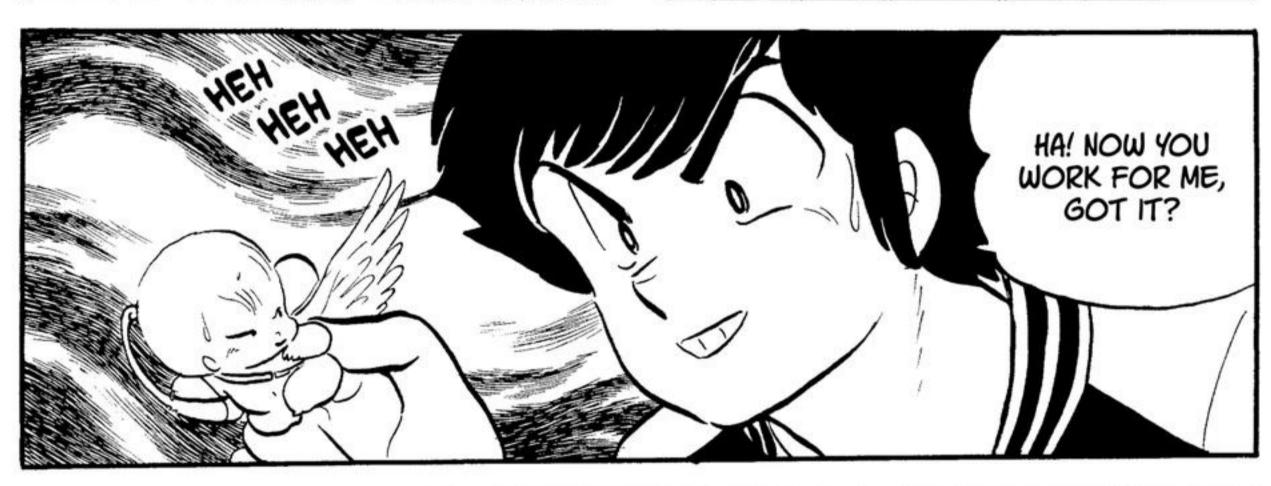












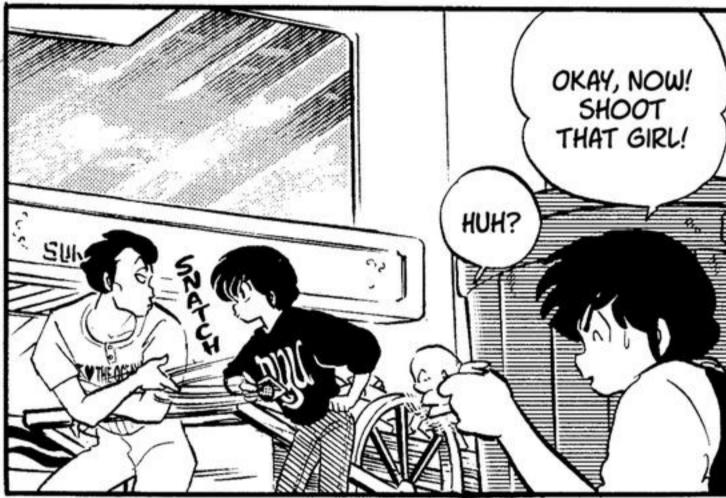














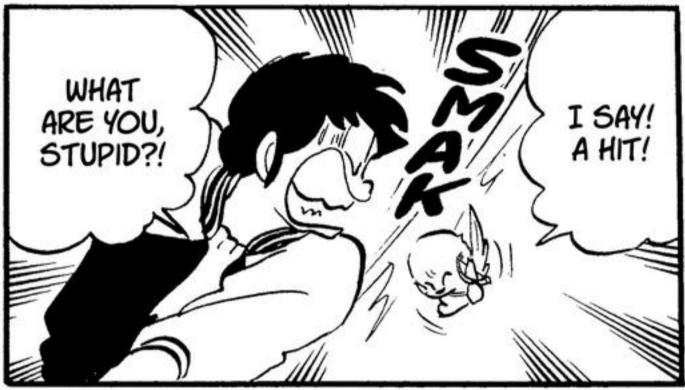














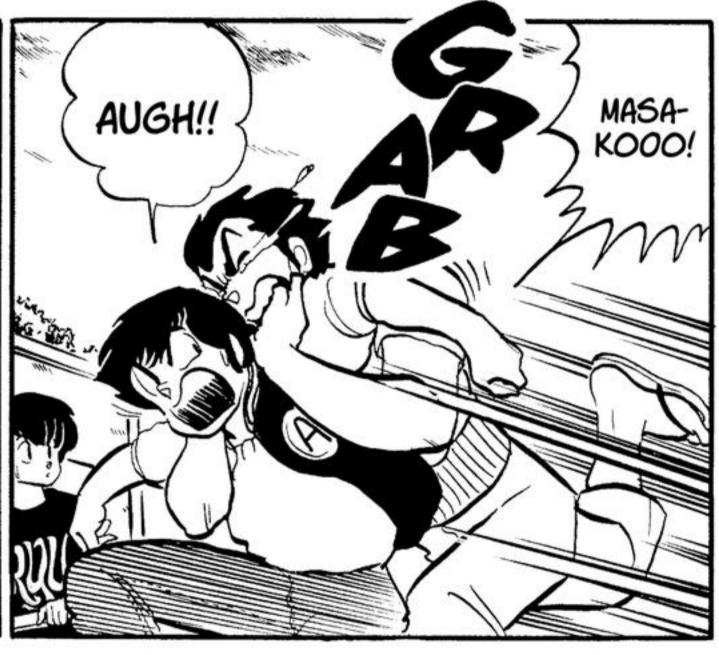


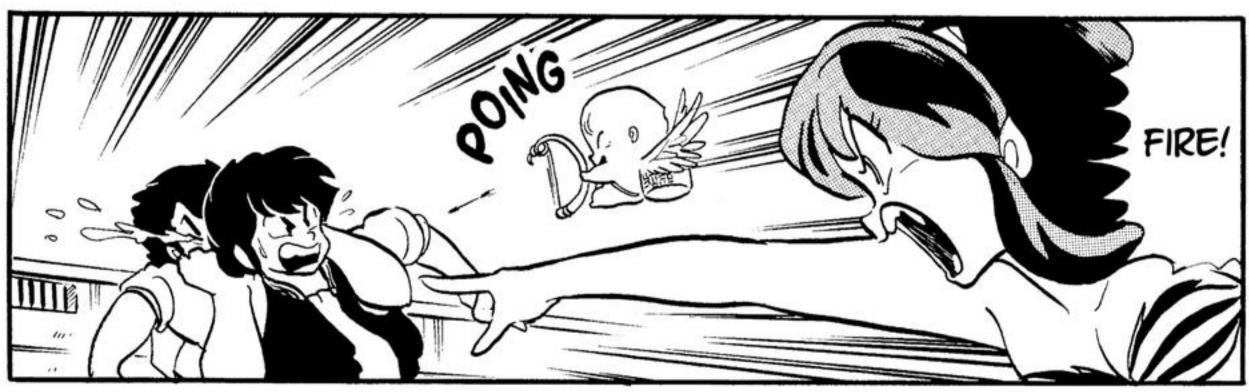


















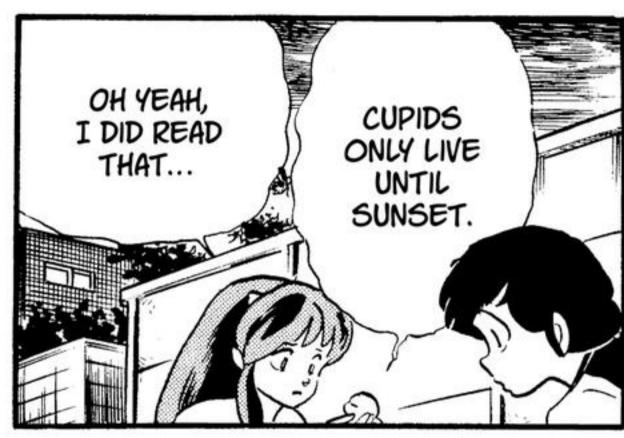




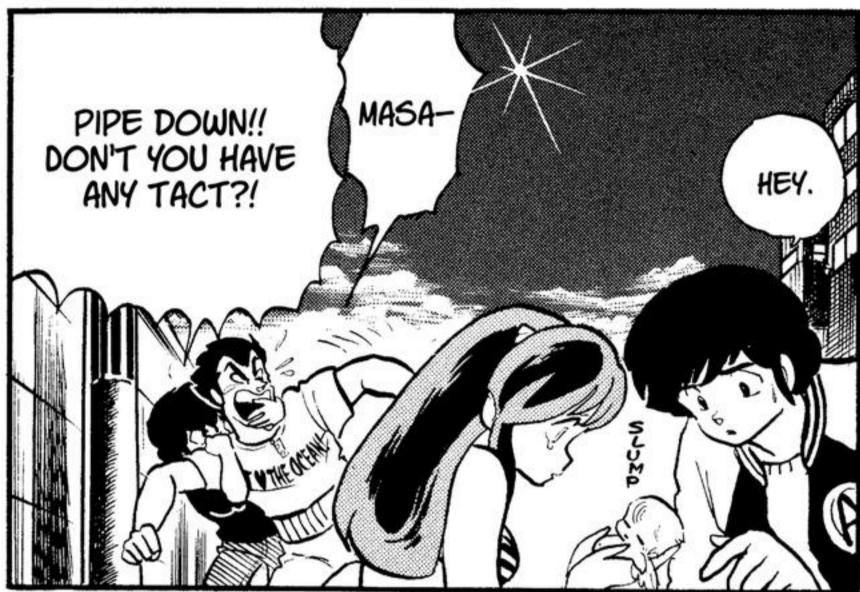






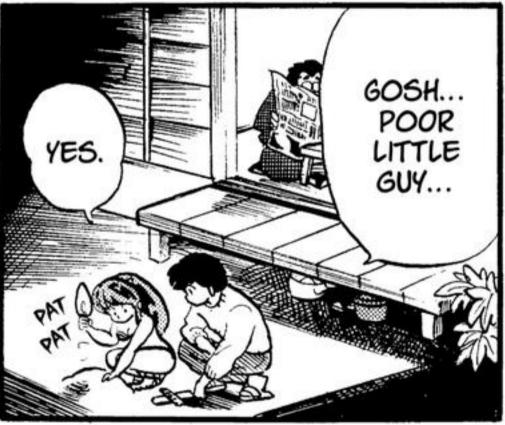


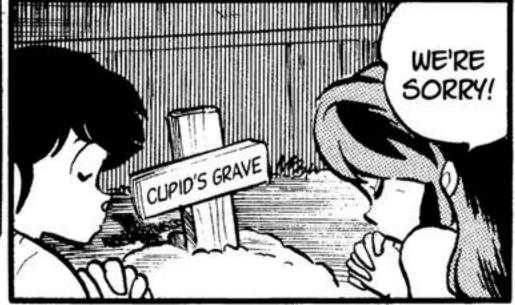












## CHAPTER 22: EXORCISM THREE-WAY





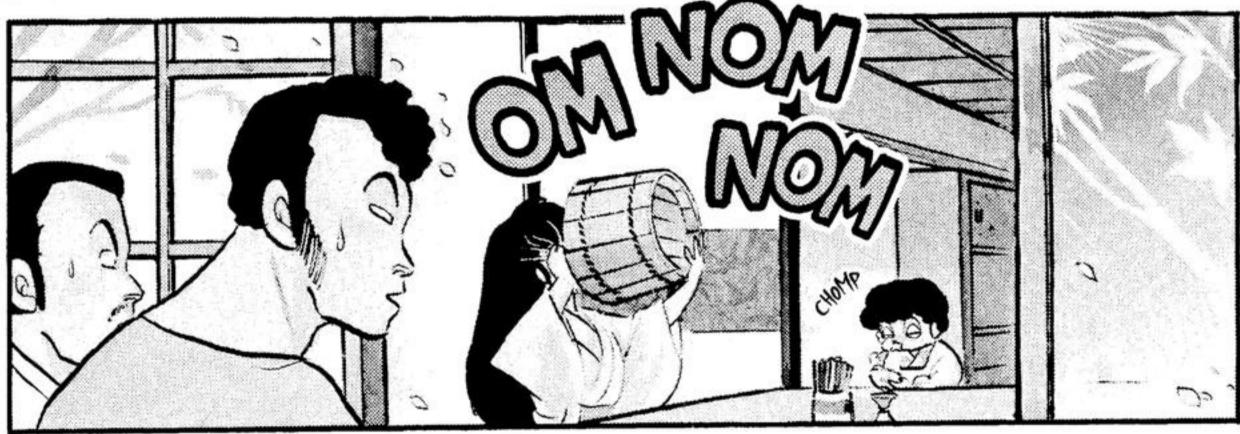




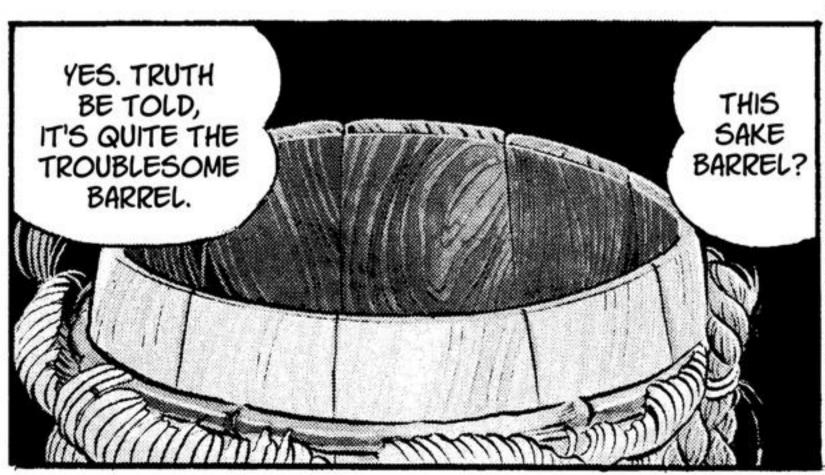




















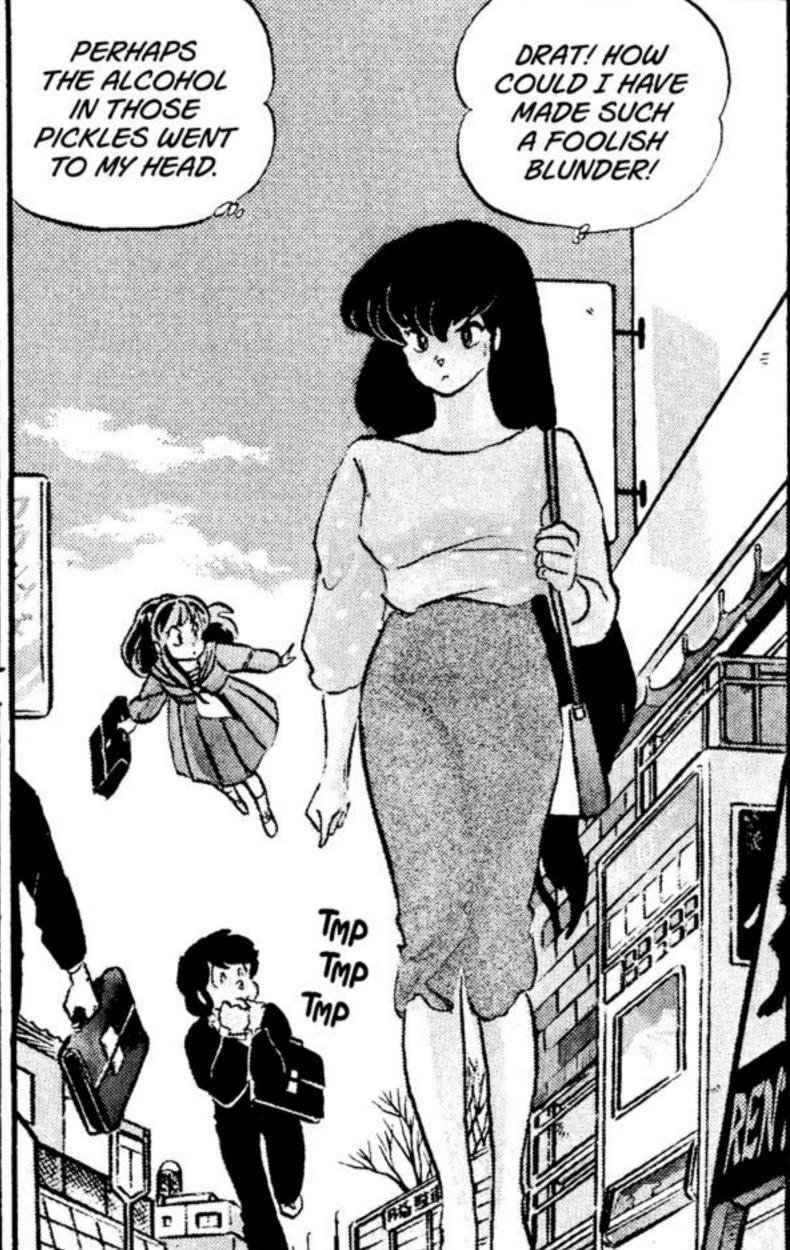






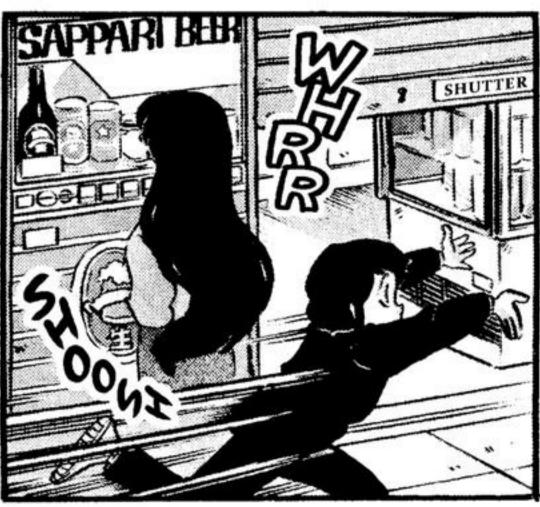








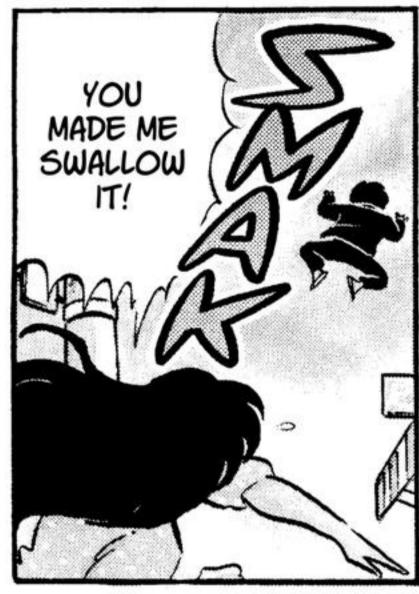






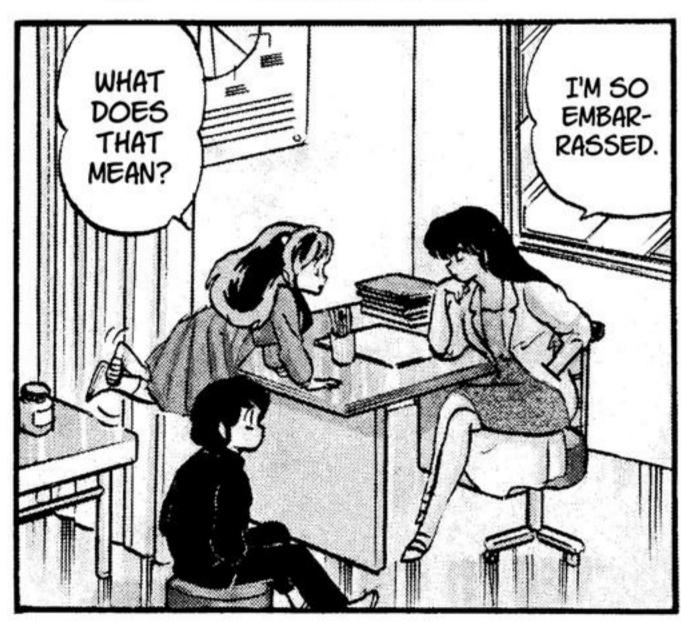










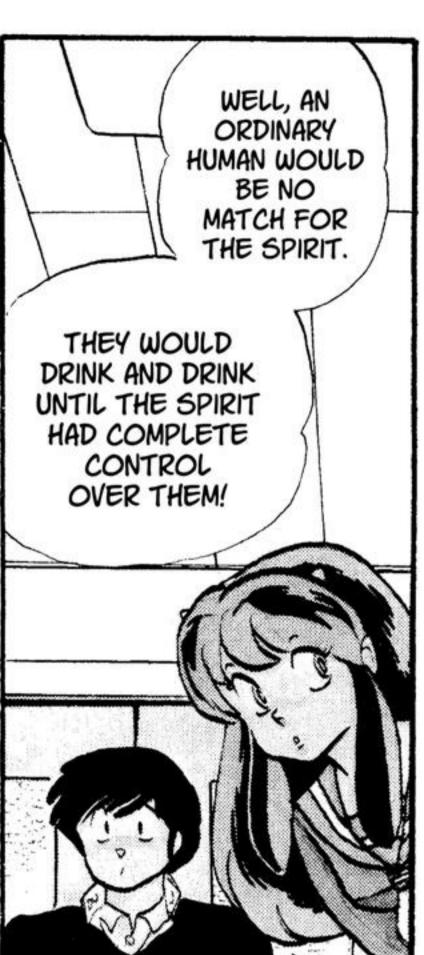
























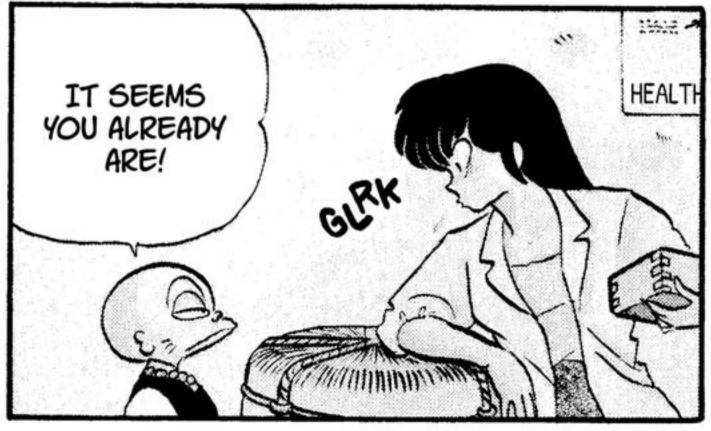


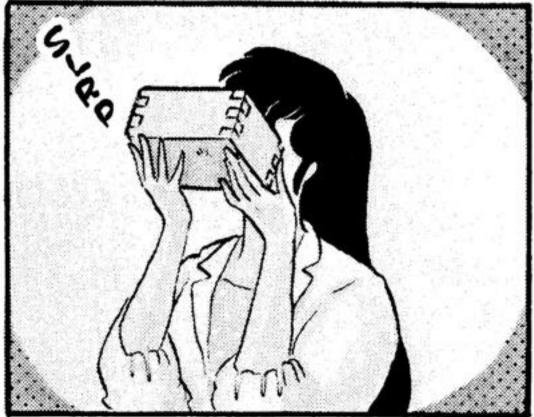












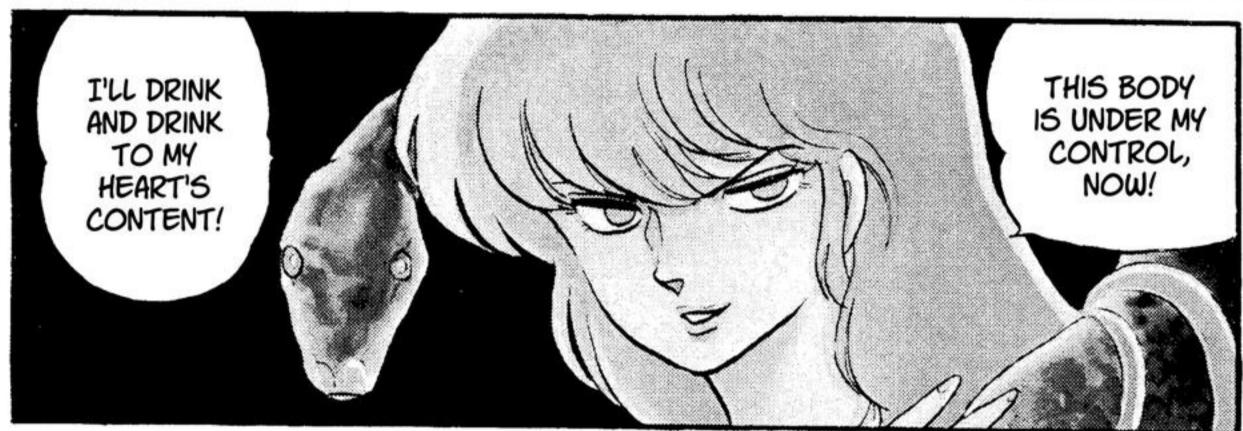


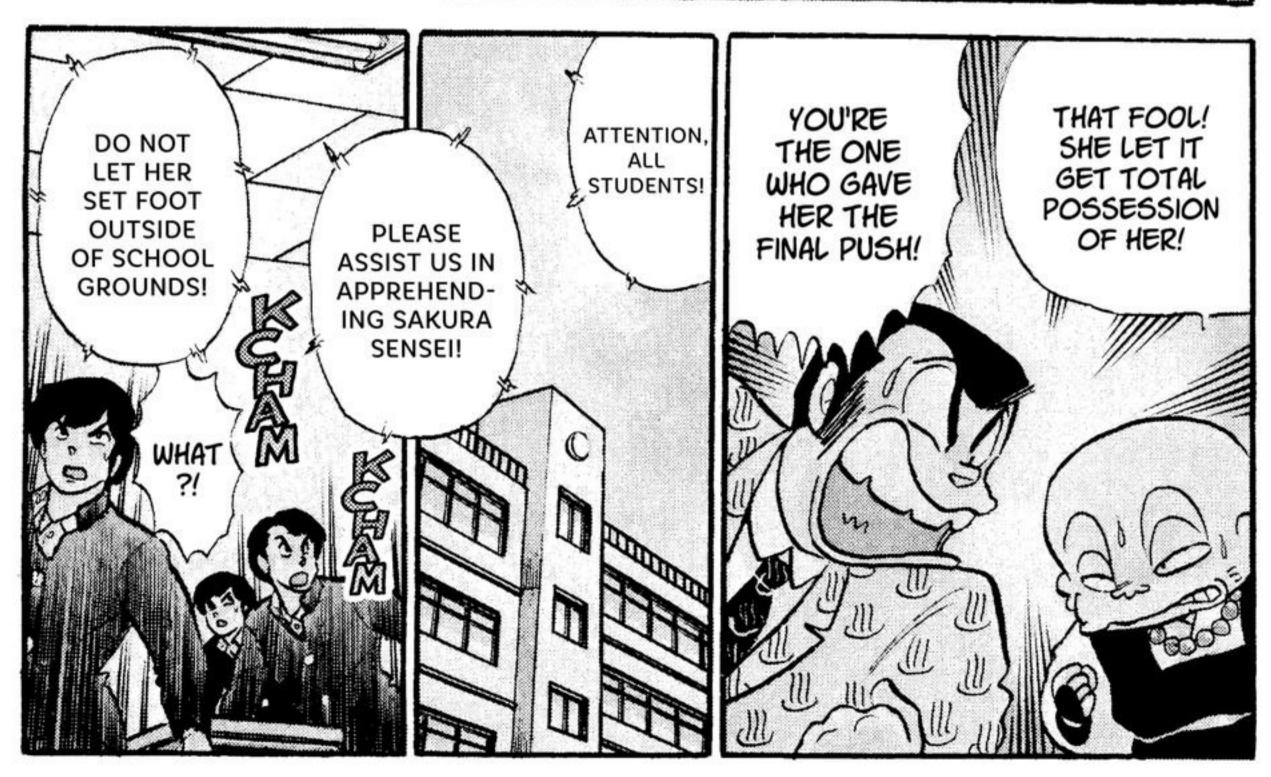






















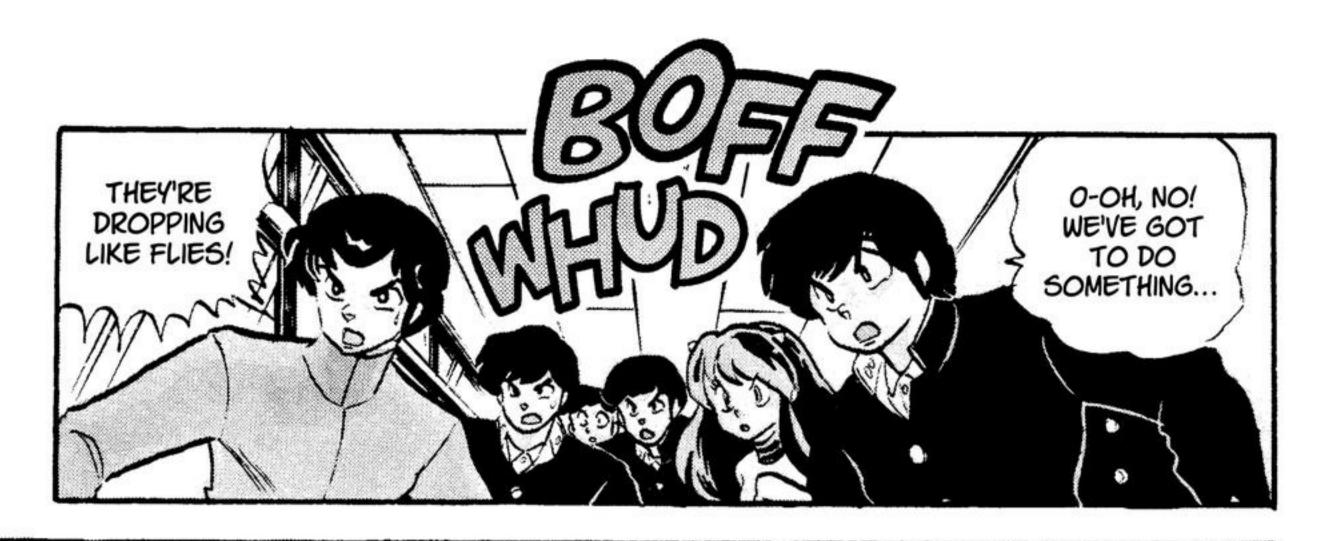




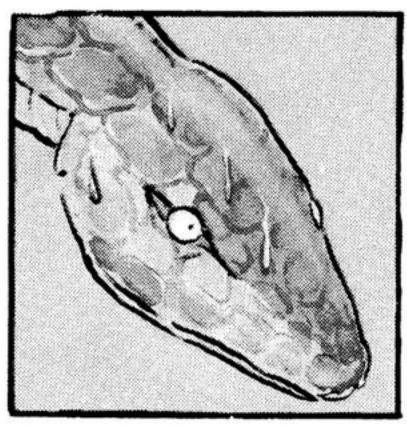










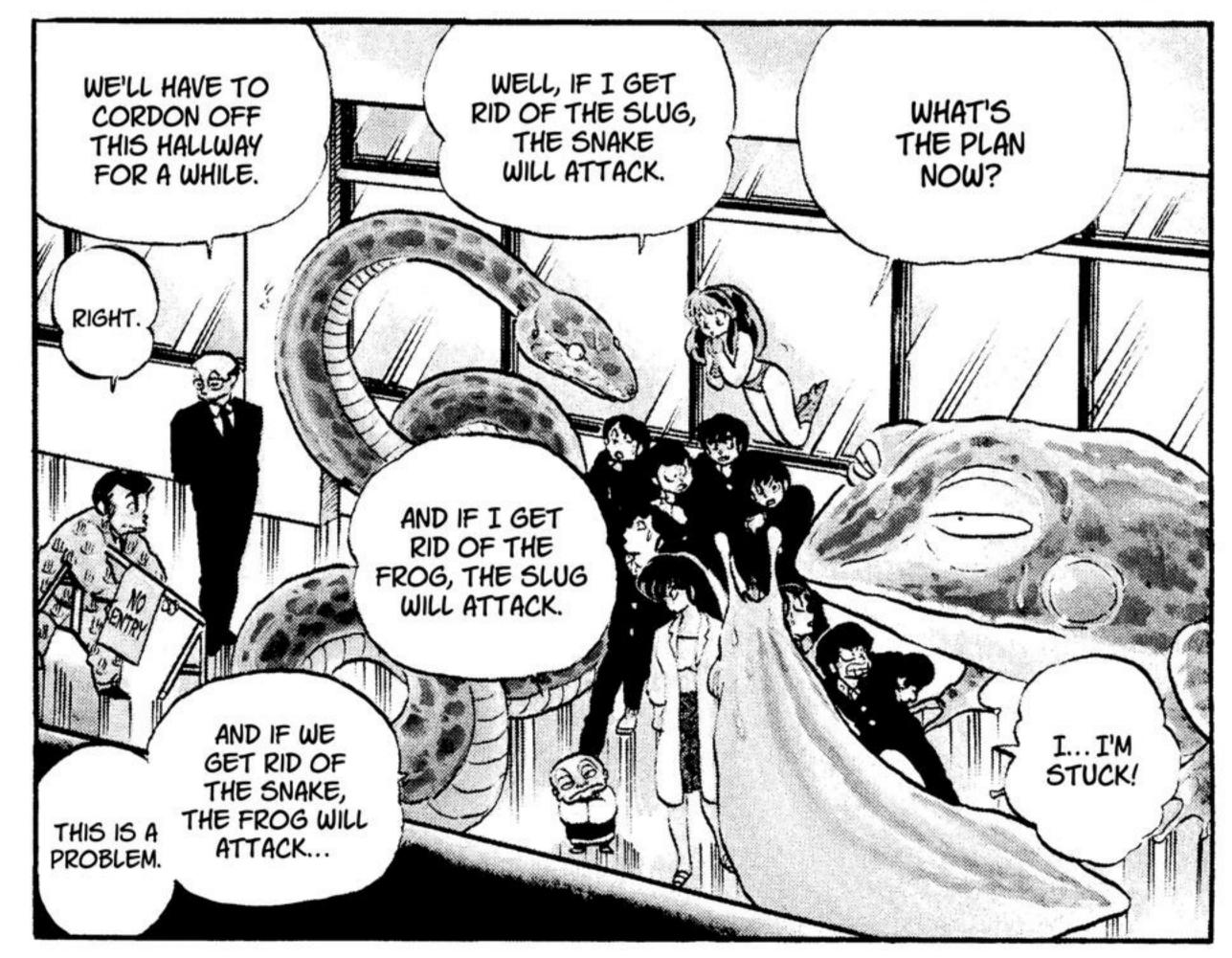








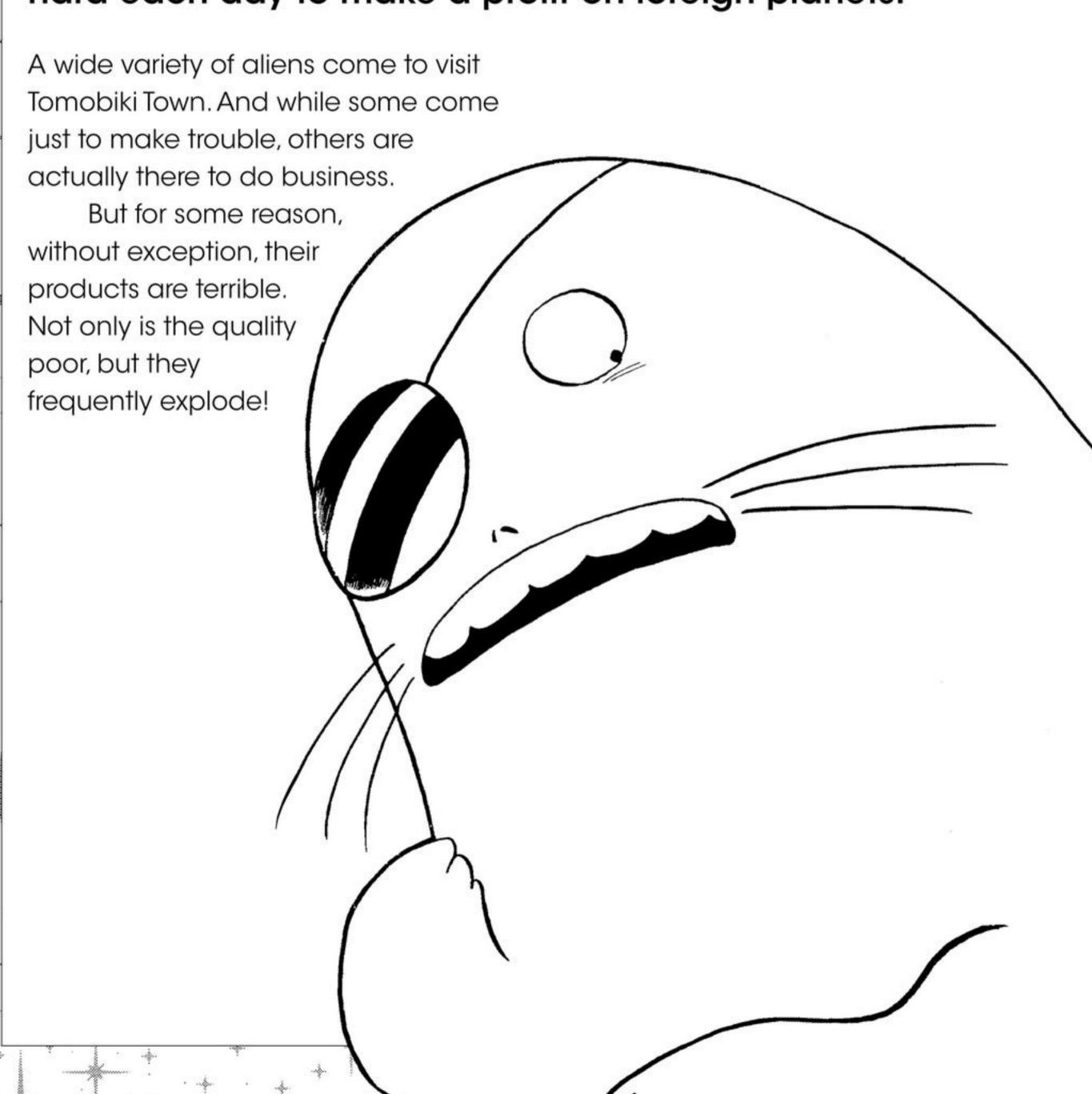


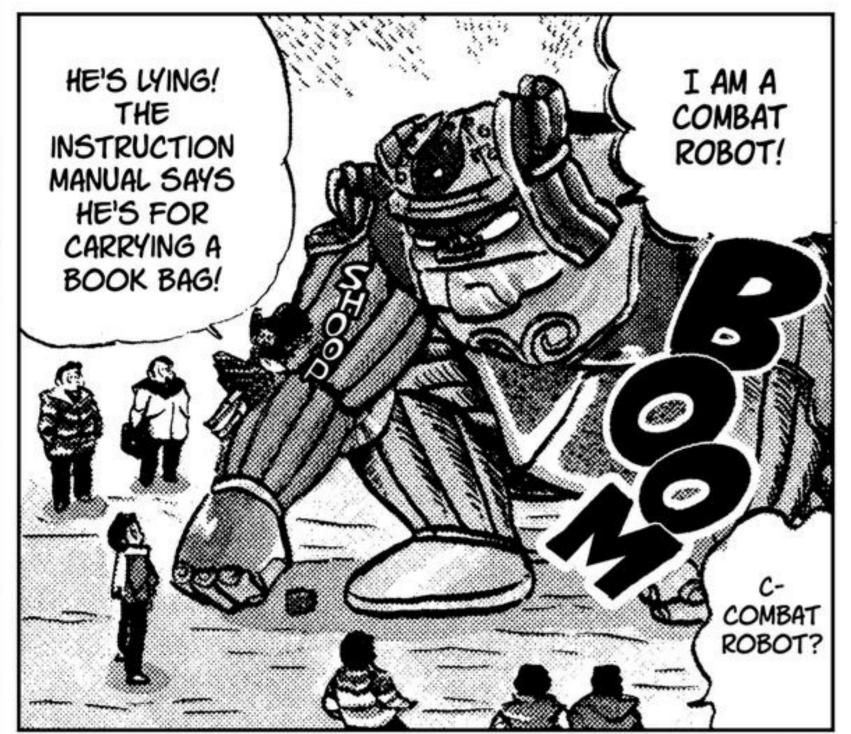


# URUSEI YATSURA ★ DATA FILE 26

# The Alien Merchants Who Visit Tomobiki Town

It's worth traveling light-years to make a buck! In this edition, we investigate the alien merchants who strive hard each day to make a profit on foreign planets!





▲ The robot Lum bought did not function in accordance with its user manual. On Earth, we would normally return such an item for a refund. (volume 6, chapter 15 "Locker Inspections")

In other words, their businesses are really just a leisure activity, a way of passing the time, and an opportunity to show off their inventions, rather than an actual livelihood. On earth, when we buy someone's homemade crafts at a bazaar, the price and quality do not quite align, and they often end up costing more than a store-bought item.

If the same principle applies to space businesses, it makes sense that customer satisfaction would be extremely low.

STUDY 2

Why are their products so bad? ②

### Only the Bottom-Feeders Come to Earth

"That's as cheap as I can go!" claims the earmuff street vendor as he haggles with Ataru over a piddling 50 cents—his business is clearly a shoestring operation that is barely squeaking by (volume 4, chapter 14 "Eerie Earmuffs").

The astro-taxi driver who nonconsensually picks up Ataru looks like some kind of gangster and he milks Ataru for his fuel costs (volume 1, chapter 3 "The Sad Sound of Rain").



■ Benten is being scammed into buying sketchy beans. (volume 15, chapter 17 ("Raging Sky Battle")

STUDY 1

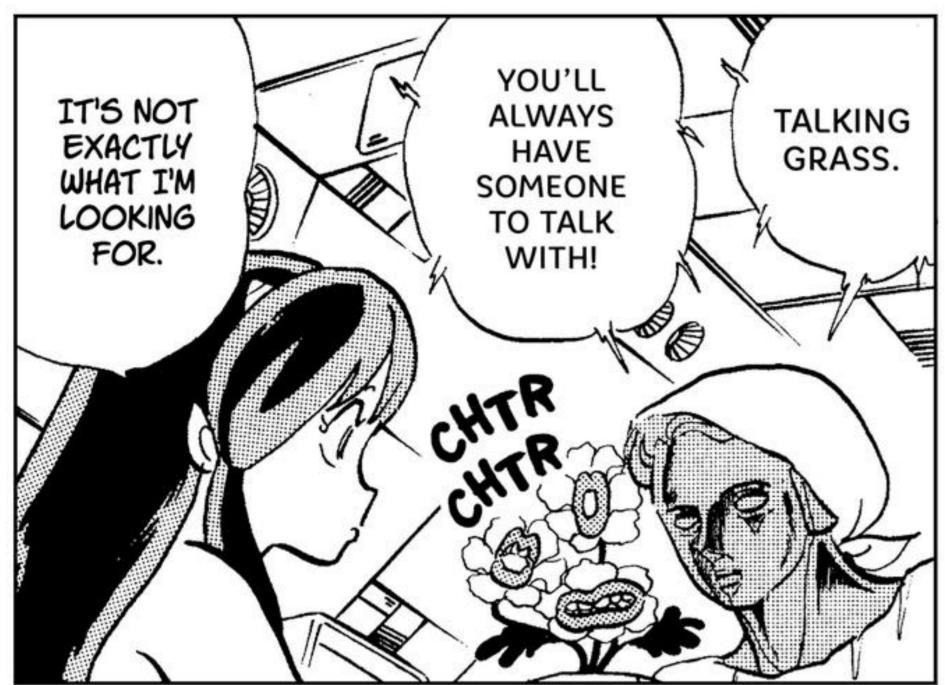
Why are their products so bad? ①

# It's a Hobby, Not a Business

When a bean seller convinces Benten to buy his product, he promises that they'll multiply 300 times in just three days. It turns out he meant that they'll multiply in size, not quantity, causing a great hullabaloo (volume 15, chapter 17 "Raging Sky Battle"). When Ten orders a Lovey-Dovey Catch Ball, Lum vouches that it's "produced in the most reliable company in the universe!" Too bad a completely different product arrives instead (volume 6, chapter 22 "A Gift from Ten"). Why do these alien merchants commit so many mix-ups, and why are their products always defective?

One possible explanation is that the merchants aren't trying to make a living, so their businesses are really more of an enjoyable pastime. Lum attends high school, but only because she wants to be with Ataru. Before she started going to school, she simply spent her days hanging out in her UFO or at the Moroboshi residence. Benten and Rei don't seem to work, either. Their civilizations have probably advanced to a self-sustaining stage where there is no need to work for a living.





▲ Lum's UFO is frequently visited by traveling merchants. (volume 13, chapter 21 "Love's Servant")

Door-to-door salesmen seem to be common in the alien economy, as do mailorder businesses. Moreover, these modes of commerce seem fairly well-accepted—Lum and Benten partake of these services without qualm and only Ran seems to be a more wary consumer.

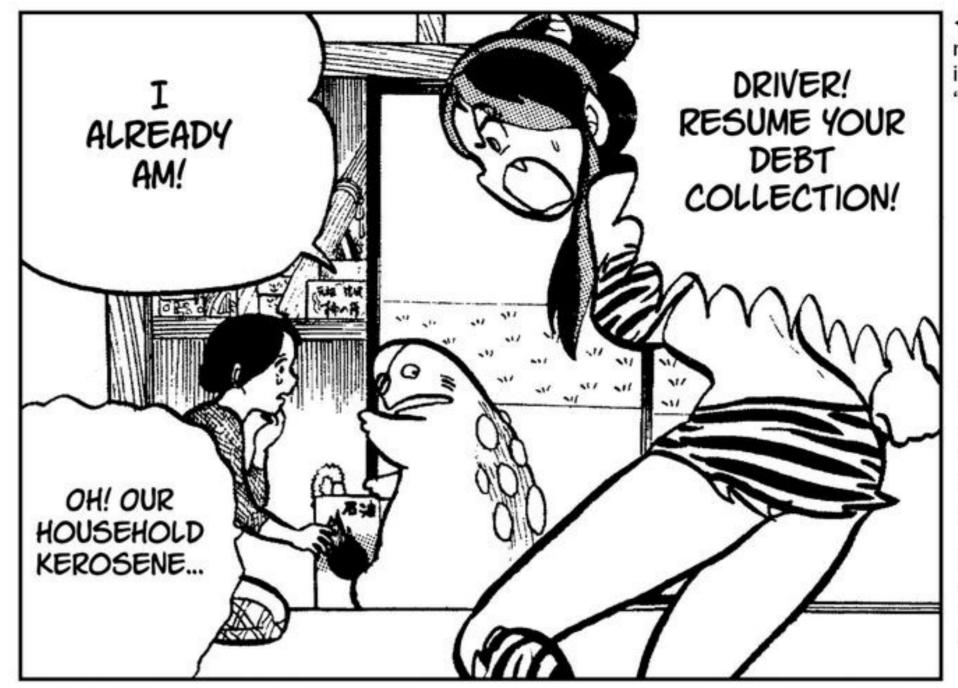
However, from the continual stream of bad products, it seems clear that there is no consumer protection center where angry customers can go to complain when they are sold faulty goods. Nor does there seem to be a warranty mechanism that allow customers to return products for a full refund if something goes wrong within a certain period.

In the austere world of the space economy, it appears that consumers are on their own if something goes wrong with their purchases. It must feel like a bit of a gamble every time they buy something, harboring hopes that for once, the product will actually work.

All things considered, the earth might be an inferior civilization from a technological standpoint, but it does seem to be more advanced than alien cultures when it comes to consumer protections!



▲ Lum and Ran, watching an infomercial. Only Ran seems skeptical... (volume 15, chapter 22 "Darling's True Feelings")



■ A businessperson has to be mindful of every last cent—even in space! (volume 1, chapter 3 "The Sad Sound of Rain")

Judging from these characters, perhaps there is still a class of people who have to hustle to make ends meet, even in advanced alien societies.

Also, given that

science is far more advanced in the alien economy, there must be a reason these merchants come to a poor planet like Earth that still depends on cheap fossil fuels. Most likely they are the loser merchants who couldn't make it in the main street alien markets and the underworld merchants with nowhere else to go to eke out their meager living.

#### STUDY 3

Why are their products so bad? 3

# There Is No Consumer Protection or Warranty

A flower seller (volume 13, chapter 21 "Love's Servant") and a T-shirt seller come calling at Lum's UFO (volume 15, chapter 22 "Darling's True Feelings") and a bean seller comes to Benten's UFO (volume 15, chapter 17 "Raging Sky Battle"). The aliens also frequently order things by mail.



Things Rei

Destroys

Anyway

We counted

them up!

### His Turbo Switch Toggles Between Hunger and Love!

Rei seems to have settled down quite a bit thanks to Ran's efforts to tame him with homemade food. His raging gluttony, however, never improves.

For example, Ran hears that in the legend of the Lovers' Cherry Tree, a couple who shares a *sakuramochi* will be eternally united. But Rei not only eats Ran's half of the sakuramochi on their date, he also eats Lum and Ataru's portions and then goes on to poach sakuramochi from total strangers! (volume 16, chapter 3 "Sakuramochi Over Flowers").

#### His Gluttony Is a Reflex

It seems an excited Rei is always wreaking havoc on hapless bystanders with his ferocious appetite, especially when he bellows "Oinkmoo!" and transforms into a giant cow. In this edition, we counted the number of things Rei destroys. The final tally was four.

The reasons for the rampages are: to propose to Lum, to get into Lum's classroom, and to chase Lum when she tries to destroy her half of the matching locket that is supposed to bring them together when opened...each instance has to do with Lum! There is not a single episode of Rei destroying something to get to food.

It turns out it's Lum, not food, that triggers Rei's destructive impulses! Just like a raging bull responds to a matador's cape, Rei seems to respond reflexively to the sight of Lum (volume 6, chapter 8 "Studying Mayhem").



▲ When Rei is excited he transforms into a giant pig-cow, making it easy to wreak destruction. (volume 6, chapter 8 "Studying Mayhem")

On the other hand, when Rei is on a Luminduced rampage, he often calms down when enticed with food.

Number of Times Rei Destroys Something: ......Four

Reasons Rei Destroys Something: All four times are in pursuit of Lum

Things Rei Destroys: A roasted sweet potato cart (volume 1, chapter 7 "A Contemptible Good-for-Nothing"), a classroom wall and window (volume 6, chapter 8 "Studying Mayhem"), a banquet hall at the Mendo Residence, and a chimney (volume 13, chapter 10 "Heartbreak Crossin': Part 1")

Author: Kyoko Sugimori Concept: Masatake Sugimori

### Part 26 Notes

The setting of *Urusei Yatsura* is in Japan, with references to history, cultural holidays, beliefs, and practices. Check out the notes below to enrich your reading experience.

Page 195 - Setsubun is the first day of spring, according to the old Japanese lunar calendar. Families celebrate by throwing roasted soybeans to chase away ogres and bring good fortune. Eating one soybean for each year of your age is considered good luck.

Page 225, panel 3 – Wasabi Joyu is a play on words. Yu means "hot water/bath" while wasabi shoyu means "wasabi soy sauce." A wasabi bubble bath would certainly warm you up!

Page 238, panel 3 - "Would you like a bath first? Or dinner?" A traditional Japanese wife greets her husband at the door when he comes home from work with these options. The principal is really getting into character!

**Page 242, panel 5** – A psychodrama is a form of psychotherapy where patients use role-playing to gain insights and understanding.

Page 301, panel 5 - This astral projection is an *ikiryo*, or the ghost of a living being.

**Page 326, panel 3** – *Namu* is an allusion to the Lotus sutra, "Namu Myoho Renge Kyo." Cherry is chanting it to ward off bad luck.

Page 356, panel 1 - This sign indicates that the temple is of the first rank.

**Page 357, panel 1** - *Narazuke* are traditional fruit and vegetable preserves from the Nara region. They are pickled in the lees (the solid byproduct of fermentation) of both sake and mirin.

Page 370, panel 1-3 – This three-way standoff is an old Chinese version of rock, paper, scissors. A frog beats a slug, which beats a snake, which beats a frog.

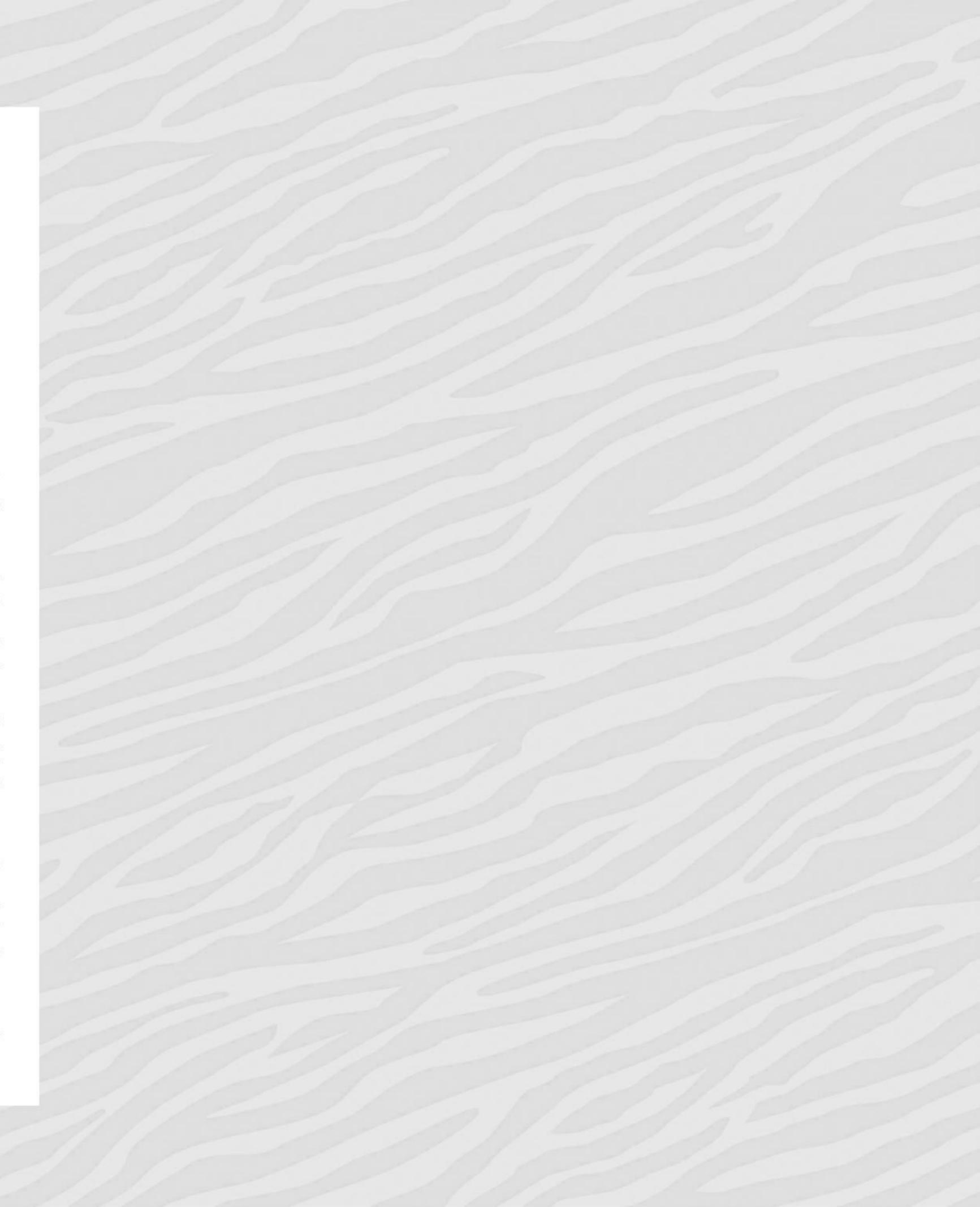


#### Rumiko Takahashi



The spotlight on Rumiko Takahashi's career began in 1978 when she won an honorable mention in Shogakukan's prestigious New Comic Artist Contest for *Those Selfish Aliens*. Later that same year, her boy-meets-alien comedy series, *Urusei Yatsura*, was serialized in *Weekly Shonen Sunday*. This phenomenally successful manga series was adapted into anime format and spawned a TV series and half a dozen theatrical-release movies, all incredibly popular in their own right. Takahashi followed up the success of her debut series with one blockbuster hit after another—*Maison Ikkoku* ran from 1980 to 1987, *Ranma 1/2* from 1987 to 1996, and *Inuyasha* from 1996 to 2008. Other notable works include *Mermaid Saga*, *Rumic Theater*, and *One-Pound Gospel*.

Takahashi was inducted into the Will Eisner Comic Awards Hall of Fame in 2018. In 2019, she won the Grand Prix at FIDB Angoulême. She won the prestigious Shogakukan Manga Award twice in her career, once for Urusei Yatsura in 1981 and the second time for Inuyasha in 2002. Her series have sold over 200 million copies worldwide as of March 2017. A majority of the Takahashi canon has been adapted into other media such as anime, live-action TV series, and film. Takahashi's manga, as well as the other formats her work has been adapted into, have continued to delight generations of fans around the world. Distinguished by her wonderfully endearing characters, Takahashi's work adeptly incorporates a wide variety of elements such as comedy, romance, fantasy, and martial arts. While her series are difficult to pin down into one simple genre, the signature style she has created has come to be known as the "Rumic World." Rumiko Takahashi is an artist who truly represents the very best from the world of manga. Many of her titles, including Mermaid Saga and her current series RIN-NE, are available in North America from VIZ Media.



### **URUSEI YATSURA**

VIZ Signature Edition Vol. 13

STORY AND ART BY

#### **RUMIKO TAKAHASHI**

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